

INCO[®] Nickel Pellets

Product Information

INCO Nickel Pellets (Class D)

INCO LIMITED
145 King Street West
Suite 1500
Toronto, ON
M5H 4B7
Chemtrec 24 hr Emergency No. 1-800-424-9300

INCO nickel Pellets are used in alloying and electroplating.

Hazardous Ingredients

| Hazardous Ingredients | Calculated Composition | C.A.S. No | Oral LD ₅₀ -rat | TLV ^{1,2} -mg/m ³ |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Nickel (Ni) | 99.97 | 7440-02-0 | >9000 mg/kg | 1.5* |

*as inhalable fraction

Physical Data

Silver-grey, odorless metal spheres of approximately 3/16 in. (5 mm) to 3/4 in. (18 mm) diameter. Material can cause slippery conditions if spilled.

| Ingredient | Mol. Wt. | Specific Gravity | m.p.°C | b.p.°C | Sol. In H ₂ O g/100ml |
|------------|----------|------------------|--------|--------|----------------------------------|
| Ni | 58.71 | 8.9 | 1453 | 2732 | 0 |

Fire or Explosion Hazard

Not applicable.

Reactivity Data

Like other metals, nickel can react with acids to liberate hydrogen gas which can form explosive mixtures in air.

Under special conditions nickel can react with carbon monoxide in reducing atmospheres to form nickel carbonyl, Ni(CO)₄, a toxic gas.

Toxicological Properties³

Nickel

LD₅₀ ORAL RAT >9000 mg/kg

Inhalation:

The National Toxicology Program has listed nickel as reasonably anticipated to be a carcinogen based on the production of injection site tumors. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) found there was inadequate evidence that metallic nickel is carcinogenic to humans but since there was sufficient evidence that it is carcinogenic to animals, IARC

INCO

Material

Safety

Data

Sheet

concluded that metallic nickel is possibly carcinogenic to humans. In 1997, the ACGIH categorized elemental nickel as: A5 "Not Suspected as a Human Carcinogen". Epidemiological studies of workers exposed to nickel powder and to dust and fume generated in the production of nickel alloys and of stainless steel have not indicated the presence of a significant respiratory cancer hazard.

Evidence for the association of nickel compound exposures and cancer risk comes mainly from workers in now obsolete nickel refining operations where very high concentrations of airborne nickel, mostly present as oxidic or sub-sulphidic species at up to 100mg/m³ or more, were associated with excess nasal and lung cancers.

The inhalation of nickel powder has not resulted in an increased incidence of malignant lung tumors in rodents. Repeated intratracheal instillation of nickel powder produced an increased incidence of malignant lung tumors in rats. Repeated intratracheal instillation of nickel powder did not produce an increased incidence of malignant lung tumors in hamsters when administered at the maximum tolerated dose. Single intratracheal instillations of nickel powder in hamsters at doses near the LD₅₀ produced an increased incidence of fibrosarcomas, mesotheliomas and rhabdomyosarcomas.

Inhalation of nickel powder at concentrations 15 times the TLV irritated the respiratory tract in rodents.

Inhalation of nickel may induce asthma. This effect is rare, it has been reported in welders where exposures to nickel are often mixed with other chemical substances. Persons with a known history of nickel sensitive asthma should avoid such contact.

Skin Contact:

Prolonged and intimate contact with metallic nickel may cause irritation to the skin and nickel sensitivity, which may result in allergic skin rashes.

One case has been reported of asthma induced by external exposure to a nickel-containing skin clip and by skin contact with nickel.

Wounds:

Nickel metal powder has caused tumors at the site of injection in rodents. However, studies do not suggest a significant risk for humans from nickel-containing prostheses.

Ingestion:

The U.S. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) concluded there is no evidence that nickel and its inorganic compounds are carcinogenic when ingested. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has affirmed that nickel is generally recognized as safe (GRAS) as a direct human food ingredient.

Preexisting Conditions:

Prolonged and intimate skin contact can cause an allergic skin rash in previously sensitized individuals.

Reproductive Toxicity: Animal experiments indicate that soluble nickel ingestion causes adverse effects on fetal development at a threshold oral exposure of 2.2 mg/ Ni/kg/day by pregnant rats. Data are insufficient to determine if this effect occurs in humans and no regulatory agency has classified soluble forms of nickel as reproductive risks for humans.

Preventative Measures

If user operations generate dust, fume or mist, use ventilation to keep exposure to airborne nickel below the exposure limit. If ventilation alone cannot so control exposure, use NIOSH-approved respirators selected according to the Selection, Care and Use of Respirators CSA Z94.4-M1993. Maintain airborne nickel levels as low as possible.

Avoid repeated skin contact. Wear suitable gloves. Wash skin thoroughly after handling. Launder clothing and gloves as needed.

Do not store near acids.

If spilled, pick up product and replace in original container.

Nickel-containing waste is normally collected to recover nickel values. Should waste disposal be deemed necessary follow the relevant governmental regulations.

First Aid Measures

If exposure to nickel carbonyl is suspected, seek medical attention immediately.

For skin rashes, seek medical attention.

Cleanse wounds thoroughly to remove any particles.

Preparation Information

Prepared by:

INCO LIMITED
Product Stewardship and Quality
416-361-7801

Note:

INCO believes that the information in this Material Safety Data Sheet is accurate. However, **INCO** makes no express or implied warranty as to the accuracy of such information and expressly disclaims any liability resulting from reliance on such information.

Footnotes:

- ® Trademark of the Inco family of companies.
- 1 Threshold Limit Value of the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists.
- 2 Exposure Limits for user operations will depend on the relevant governmental regulations.
- 3 Describes possible health hazards of the product supplied. If user operations change it to other chemical forms, whether as end products, intermediates or fugitive emissions, the user must determine the possible health hazards of such forms.