

THE RUBBER INDUSTRY AND SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

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The general recommendations regarding safety precautions can be expressed briefly in the form of ten rules;

01. The inhalation of chemicals, whether as dusts, fumes or vapours, must be avoided. Impure air must be removed with air extractors and premises ventilated. Breathing apparatus should be worn if necessary. Those charged with sweeping or the removal of dust deposits should take care not to stir up clouds of dust.
02. In principle no chemical should be allowed to come into contact with the skin or get into the eyes. Persons who handle chemicals, especially for long periods or repeatedly, should wear such protective devices and clothing as gloves, goggles, overalls and aprons. Powder which gets onto the skin should be removed immediately, after which the skin should be washed with soap and water. If splashes get onto the skin, wash away with soap and plenty of water immediately. Should chemicals get into the eyes, rinse the eyes with running water, immediately; then if necessary, consult medical opinion.
03. As a matter of principle workers must refrain from everything which could enable chemicals to enter the body together with food or drink. Food should not be stored, prepared or consumed in rooms where chemicals are used. Should a chemical be swallowed, call the doctor immediately.
04. Occupational clothing should be changed and laundered or cleaned at frequent intervals. Badly soiled clothing should be changed immediately and discarded if necessary.
05. Normal and emergency washing facilities must be readily accessible from processing areas. Installations to enable the head or eyes to be rinsed with, plenty of water must be available in case of an emergency. Facilities to enable the hands to be washed before meals must also be readily accessible.
06. Chemicals should only be stored and weighed in well ventilated premises intended for the purpose. Packed chemicals must be stored tidily and within easy access; the packages must be clearly marked and must display any necessary danger warnings and the safety precautions to be taken during their handling. Regulations on the storage of flammable materials must be strictly observed.

07. Chemicals, except those in closed containers, should only be moved and processed by authorised persons who have been instructed how to handle them.
08. Spilt chemicals must be dealt with immediately and in accordance with the safety rules applicable to them.
09. Chemicals must be handled with suitable equipment shovels, buckets etc. Such equipment must be available at all times and should not be used for any other purpose.
10. First aid supplies, fire extinguishers and other safeguards must be clearly visible and easy to reach. They must be inspected at frequent intervals by an employee responsible for safety. A telephone, clearly showing the telephone numbers of the ambulance unit and fire service, must also be within easy reach.

Disposal of rubber chemicals

Dumping on a specially reserved place or combustion under carefully controlled conditions is the normal method of disposal. Packaging materials containing large or small amounts of rubber chemicals should be dealt with accordingly.

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Hazardous materials and safety precautions

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