

DATE: 7/13/10

SUBJECT: Volatility of LORD 400 series.

The primary and most volatile component of the LORD 400 series is methyl methacrylate. Like any organic chemical; it does have occupational hazards associated with it, but with proper protective equipment and clothing, the risk certainly can be minimized. It is considered to be a moderate health hazard. It may be harmful if inhaled, irritating to skin, eyes, and respiratory system. Inhalation may cause headache, nausea, vomiting, confusion, dizziness, and unconsciousness. It is not considered a carcinogen. It does have recommended occupation exposure limits: 100 ppm in short term exposure situations, or 50 ppm in time weight ave. tests (generally 8 hours of potential exposure). Methyl methacrylate is considered to be a skin sensitizer with other effects to include body weight effects, eye and upper respiratory tract irritation and pulmonary edema with overexposure. As we discussed the other day -- it has a very low odor threshold -- geometric mean air odor threshold = 0.049 ppm (detectable); 0.34 ppm (recognizable), which is well below the "recognized" safe exposure levels.

As you know, sensitizers are sometimes difficult to manage, because people develop different levels of "sensitization" to these types of chemicals. Some people never experience problems, and others might break out or develop respiratory systems simply by walking by a room where these chemicals are in use. As mentioned above, the generally recognized "safe level" is 50/100 ppms.

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