UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS ARLINGTON | ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

Safe Use of Hydrofluoric Acid (HF)

Hydrofluoric acid, a solution of hydrogen fluoride gas (HF) in water, is one of the most corrosive and dangerous chemicals encountered in the laboratory. Exposure to HF can cause severe tissue damage and even death. Deaths have been reported from concentrated acid burns (involving ≥ 50% HF solutions) to as little as 2.5% of body surface area. In lower concentrations, symptoms may be delayed. The following special safety precautions are necessary when using this chemical, regardless if using diluted or concentrated HF.

SAFETY DATA SHEET (SDS):

Review carefully the attached Safety Data Sheet (or the Safety Data Sheet on the manufacturer's web site) before working with Hydrofluoric Acid.

CEMS:

Go to Chemical Environmental Management System (CEMS) http://cems.uta.edu to locate Hydrofluoric Acid in your laboratory.

TRAINING:

Complete online Hazard Communication and Waste Management training and receive Site Specific training from your PI/Lab Manager/Chemical Owner which includes reviewing the hazards of Hydrofluoric Acid (HF), safety precautions, and emergency procedures. Fill out the attached Site Specific training form and submit to ehsafety@uta.edu.

ENGINEERING CONTROLS AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT:

Plan the operation to eliminate risk of Hydrofluoric Acid (HF) splash/spray. Ensure the nearest emergency safety shower/eye wash is accessible and has been tested within the last 12 months. Ensure laboratory fume hood has been tested within last 12 months and is functioning properly.

FIRST AID:

Ensure 2.5% Calcium Gluconate gel (intended for dermal exposures) is available in the laboratory and not expired. It is used in responding to Hydrofluoric Acid exposure to the body, mitigating or preventing the related pain and potential tissue burns and bone damage. Calcium gluconate combines with hydrofluoric acid to neutralize the powerful fluoride ion. Familiarize yourself with FIRST AID MEASURES described in the attached Safety Data Sheet.

Remember: **all HF burns or exposure should be referred to a hospital after washing and starting initial first-aid procedures with Calcium Gluconate gel.**

Issued 03/13/2017
Reviewed 07/22/2020

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE):

Check PPE for damage before using. Wear appropriate PPE, which minimally includes:

- Goggles and face shield.
- Butyl rubber or neoprene gloves (consider double gloving).
- Lab coat and neoprene long-sleeve apron.
- Closed-toe shoes.

WORK PRACTICES:

- Work in the fume hood with the sash opened as little as possible.
- Purchase and use the smallest quantities of HF necessary.
- Establish designated area for HF use and post sign "Hydrofluoric Acid Use Area." Also post sign on lab door when in use.
- Do not work alone; others present in the laboratory must be familiar with the operation's hazards and emergency procedures.
- Add acid to water, not water to acid.
- Do not use glass, ceramic, or other incompatible containers with HF.
- Ensure secondary containment and segregation of incompatible chemicals.
- Store HF solutions below eye level.

SAFETY DATA SHEET

Version 6.5
Revision Date 01/21/2020
Print Date 05/30/2020

SECTION 1: Identification of the substance/mixture and of the company/undertaking

1.1 Product identifiers

Product name : Hydrofluoric acid

Product Number : 695068
Brand : SIGALD
CAS-No. : 7664-39-3

1.2 Relevant identified uses of the substance or mixture and uses advised against

Identified uses : Laboratory chemicals, Synthesis of substances

1.3 Details of the supplier of the safety data sheet

Company : Sigma-Aldrich Inc.
3050 Spruce Street
ST. LOUIS MO 63103
UNITED STATES

Telephone : +1 314 771-5765
Fax : +1 800 325-5052

1.4 Emergency telephone number

Emergency Phone # : +1-703-527-3887

SECTION 2: Hazards identification

2.1 Classification of the substance or mixture

GHS Classification in accordance with 29 CFR 1910 (OSHA HCS)

Acute toxicity, Oral (Category 2), H300
Acute toxicity, Inhalation (Category 2), H330
Acute toxicity, Dermal (Category 1), H310
Skin corrosion (Category 1B), H314
Serious eye damage (Category 1), H318

For the full text of the H-Statements mentioned in this Section, see Section 16.

2.2 GHS Label elements, including precautionary statements

Pictogram

Signal word Danger

Hazard statement(s)
H300 + H310 + H330 Fatal if swallowed, in contact with skin or if inhaled.

H314	Causes severe skin burns and eye damage.

Precautionary statement(s)

P260	Do not breathe dust/ fume/ gas/ mist/ vapours/ spray.
P262	Do not get in eyes, on skin, or on clothing.
P264	Wash skin thoroughly after handling.
P270	Do not eat, drink or smoke when using this product.
P271	Use only outdoors or in a well-ventilated area.
P280	Wear protective gloves/ protective clothing/ eye protection/ face protection.
P284	Wear respiratory protection.
P301 + P310 + P330	IF SWALLOWED: Immediately call a POISON CENTER/doctor. Rinse mouth.
P301 + P330 + P331	IF SWALLOWED: Rinse mouth. Do NOT induce vomiting.
P302 + P350 + P310	IF ON SKIN: Gently wash with plenty of soap and water. Immediately call a POISON CENTER or doctor/ physician.
P303 + P361 + P353	IF ON SKIN (or hair): Take off immediately all contaminated clothing. Rinse skin with water/shower.
P304 + P340 + P310	IF INHALED: Remove person to fresh air and keep comfortable for breathing. Immediately call a POISON CENTER/doctor.
P305 + P351 + P338 + P310	IF IN EYES: Rinse cautiously with water for several minutes. Remove contact lenses, if present and easy to do. Continue rinsing. Immediately call a POISON CENTER/doctor.
P362	Take off contaminated clothing and wash before reuse.
P403 + P233	Store in a well-ventilated place. Keep container tightly closed.
P405	Store locked up.
P501	Dispose of contents/ container to an approved waste disposal plant.

2.3 Hazards not otherwise classified (HNOC) or not covered by GHS - none

SECTION 3: Composition/information on ingredients

3.2 Mixtures

Formula : HF
Molecular weight : 20.01 g/mol

Component		Classification	Concentration
Hydrofluoric acid			
CAS-No. EC-No. Index-No.	7664-39-3 231-634-8 009-003-00-1	Acute Tox. 2; Acute Tox. 1; Skin Corr. 1A; Eye Dam. 1; H300, H330, H310, H314, H318	>= 30 - < 50 %

For the full text of the H-Statements mentioned in this Section, see Section 16.

SECTION 4: First aid measures

4.1 Description of first aid measures

General advice
Consult a physician. Show this safety data sheet to the doctor in attendance. Hydrofluoric (HF) acid burns require immediate and specialized first aid and medical treatment.

Symptoms may be delayed up to 24 hours depending on the concentration of HF. After decontamination with water, further damage can occur due to penetration/absorption of the fluoride ion. Treatment should be directed toward binding the fluoride ion as well as the effects of exposure. Skin exposures can be treated with a 2.5% calcium gluconate gel repeated until burning ceases. More serious skin exposures may require subcutaneous calcium gluconate except for digital areas unless the physician is experienced in this technique, due to the potential for tissue injury from increased pressure. Absorption can readily occur through the subungual areas and should be considered when undergoing decontamination. Prevention of absorption of the fluoride ion in cases of ingestion can be obtained by giving milk, chewable calcium carbonate tablets or Milk of Magnesia to conscious victims. Conditions such as hypocalcemia, hypomagnesemia and cardiac arrhythmias should be monitored for, since they can occur after exposure.Move out of dangerous area.

If inhaled
If breathed in, move person into fresh air. If not breathing, give artificial respiration. Consult a physician.

In case of skin contact
Take off contaminated clothing and shoes immediately. Wash off with soap and plenty of water. Take victim immediately to hospital. Consult a physician.

In case of eye contact
Rinse thoroughly with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes and consult a physician.Continue rinsing eyes during transport to hospital.

If swallowed
Do NOT induce vomiting. Never give anything by mouth to an unconscious person. Rinse mouth with water. Consult a physician.

4.2 Most important symptoms and effects, both acute and delayed
The most important known symptoms and effects are described in the labelling (see section 2.2) and/or in section 11

4.3 Indication of any immediate medical attention and special treatment needed
No data available

SECTION 5: Firefighting measures

5.1 Extinguishing media

Suitable extinguishing media
Use water spray, alcohol-resistant foam, dry chemical or carbon dioxide.

5.2 Special hazards arising from the substance or mixture
Hydrogen fluoride

5.3 Advice for firefighters
Wear self-contained breathing apparatus for firefighting if necessary.

5.4 Further information
No data available

SECTION 6: Accidental release measures

6.1 Personal precautions, protective equipment and emergency procedures

Wear respiratory protection. Avoid breathing vapours, mist or gas. Ensure adequate ventilation. Evacuate personnel to safe areas.
For personal protection see section 8.

6.2 Environmental precautions

Prevent further leakage or spillage if safe to do so. Do not let product enter drains.

6.3 Methods and materials for containment and cleaning up

Soak up with inert absorbent material and dispose of as hazardous waste. Keep in suitable, closed containers for disposal.

6.4 Reference to other sections

For disposal see section 13.

SECTION 7: Handling and storage

7.1 Precautions for safe handling

Avoid contact with skin and eyes. Avoid inhalation of vapour or mist.
For precautions see section 2.2.

7.2 Conditions for safe storage, including any incompatibilities

Keep container tightly closed in a dry and well-ventilated place. Containers which are opened must be carefully resealed and kept upright to prevent leakage.
Storage class (TRGS 510): 6.1A: Combustible, acute toxic Cat. 1 and 2 / very toxic hazardous materials

7.3 Specific end use(s)

Apart from the uses mentioned in section 1.2 no other specific uses are stipulated

SECTION 8: Exposure controls/personal protection

8.1 Control parameters

Components with workplace control parameters

Component	CAS-No.	Value	Control parameters	Basis
Hydrofluoric acid	7664-39-3	TWA	0.5 ppm	USA. ACGIH Threshold Limit Values (TLV)
	Remarks	Upper Respiratory Tract irritation Lower Respiratory Tract irritation Eye irritation Skin irritation Fluorosis Substances for which there is a Biological Exposure Index or Indices (see BEI® section) Danger of cutaneous absorption		
		C	2 ppm	USA. ACGIH Threshold Limit Values (TLV)
		Upper Respiratory Tract irritation Lower Respiratory Tract irritation Eye irritation		

		Skin irritation Fluorosis Substances for which there is a Biological Exposure Index or Indices (see BEI® section) Danger of cutaneous absorption		
		TWA	3 ppm 2.5 mg/m3	USA. NIOSH Recommended Exposure Limits
		C	6 ppm 5 mg/m3	USA. NIOSH Recommended Exposure Limits
		15 minute ceiling value		
		See Table Z-2		
		TWA	3 ppm	USA. Occupational Exposure Limits (OSHA) - Table Z-2
		Z37.28-1969		
		PEL	0.4 ppm 0.33 mg/m3	California permissible exposure limits for chemical contaminants (Title 8, Article 107)
		Skin		
		STEL	1 ppm 0.83 mg/m3	California permissible exposure limits for chemical contaminants (Title 8, Article 107)
		Skin		
		TWA	3 ppm	USA. OSHA - TABLE Z-1 Limits for Air Contaminants - 1910.1000
		STEL	6 ppm	USA. OSHA - TABLE Z-1 Limits for Air Contaminants - 1910.1000

Biological occupational exposure limits

Component	CAS-No.	Parameters	Value	Biological specimen	Basis
Hydrofluoric acid	7664-39-3	Fluoride	2 mg/l	Urine	ACGIH - Biological Exposure Indices (BEI)
	Remarks	Prior to shift (16 hours after exposure ceases)			
		Fluoride	3 mg/l	Urine	ACGIH - Biological Exposure Indices (BEI)
		End of shift (As soon as possible after exposure ceases)			

8.2 Exposure controls

Appropriate engineering controls

Avoid contact with skin, eyes and clothing. Wash hands before breaks and immediately after handling the product.

Personal protective equipment

Eye/face protection
Tightly fitting safety goggles. Faceshield (8-inch minimum). Use equipment for eye protection tested and approved under appropriate government standards such as NIOSH (US) or EN 166(EU).

Skin protection
Handle with gloves. Gloves must be inspected prior to use. Use proper glove removal technique (without touching glove's outer surface) to avoid skin contact with this product. Dispose of contaminated gloves after use in accordance with applicable laws and good laboratory practices. Wash and dry hands.

Full contact
Material: Chloroprene
Minimum layer thickness: 0.6 mm
Break through time: > 480 min
Material tested:Camapren® (KCL 722 / Aldrich Z677493, Size M)

Splash contact
Material: Nature latex/chloroprene
Minimum layer thickness: 0.6 mm
Break through time: 180 min
Material tested:Lapren® (KCL 706 / Aldrich Z677558, Size M)

data source: KCL GmbH, D-36124 Eichenzell, phone +49 (0)6659 87300, e-mail sales@kcl.de, test method: EN374
If used in solution, or mixed with other substances, and under conditions which differ from EN 374, contact the supplier of the CE approved gloves. This recommendation is advisory only and must be evaluated by an industrial hygienist and safety officer familiar with the specific situation of anticipated use by our customers. It should not be construed as offering an approval for any specific use scenario.

Body Protection
Complete suit protecting against chemicals, The type of protective equipment must be selected according to the concentration and amount of the dangerous substance at the specific workplace.

Respiratory protection
Where risk assessment shows air-purifying respirators are appropriate use a full-face respirator with multi-purpose combination (US) or type ABEK (EN 14387) respirator cartridges as a backup to engineering controls. If the respirator is the sole means of protection, use a full-face supplied air respirator. Use respirators and components tested and approved under appropriate government standards such as NIOSH (US) or CEN (EU).

Control of environmental exposure
Prevent further leakage or spillage if safe to do so. Do not let product enter drains.

SECTION 9: Physical and chemical properties

9.1 Information on basic physical and chemical properties

a)	Appearance	Form: liquid
b)	Odour	No data available
c)	Odour Threshold	No data available
d)	pH	No data available

e)	Melting point/freezing point	No data available
f)	Initial boiling point and boiling range	No data available
g)	Flash point	()No data available
h)	Evaporation rate	No data available
i)	Flammability (solid, gas)	No data available
j)	Upper/lower flammability or explosive limits	No data available
k)	Vapour pressure	No data available
l)	Vapour density	No data available
m)	Relative density	No data available
n)	Water solubility	No data available
o)	Partition coefficient: n-octanol/water	No data available
p)	Auto-ignition temperature	No data available
q)	Decomposition temperature	No data available
r)	Viscosity	No data available
s)	Explosive properties	No data available
t)	Oxidizing properties	No data available

9.2 Other safety information
No data available

SECTION 10: Stability and reactivity

10.1 Reactivity
No data available

10.2 Chemical stability
Stable under recommended storage conditions.

10.3 Possibility of hazardous reactions
No data available

10.4 Conditions to avoid
No data available

10.5 Incompatible materials
Strong oxidizing agents

10.6 Hazardous decomposition products
Hazardous decomposition products formed under fire conditions. - Hydrogen fluoride
Other decomposition products - No data available
In the event of fire: see section 5

SECTION 11: Toxicological information

11.1 Information on toxicological effects

Acute toxicity
No data available

Inhalation: No data available

Dermal: No data available

No data available

Skin corrosion/irritation
No data available

Serious eye damage/eye irritation
No data available

Respiratory or skin sensitisation
No data available

Germ cell mutagenicity
No data available

Carcinogenicity

IARC: No component of this product present at levels greater than or equal to 0.1% is identified as probable, possible or confirmed human carcinogen by IARC.

NTP: No component of this product present at levels greater than or equal to 0.1% is identified as a known or anticipated carcinogen by NTP.

OSHA: No component of this product present at levels greater than or equal to 0.1% is on OSHA's list of regulated carcinogens.

Reproductive toxicity
No data available

Specific target organ toxicity - single exposure
No data available

Specific target organ toxicity - repeated exposure
No data available

Aspiration hazard
No data available

Additional Information
RTECS: Not available

Fluoride ion can reduce serum calcium levels possibly causing fatal hypocalcemia., Material can cause severe burns and blistering which may not be immediately painful or visible. The full extent of tissue damage may not exhibit itself for 12-24 hours after exposure., Material is extremely destructive to tissue of the mucous membranes and upper respiratory tract, eyes, and skin., necrosis of the skin

Stomach - Irregularities - Based on Human Evidence

SECTION 12: Ecological information

12.1 Toxicity
No data available

12.2 Persistence and degradability
No data available

12.3 Bioaccumulative potential
No data available

12.4 Mobility in soil
No data available

12.5 Results of PBT and vPvB assessment
PBT/vPvB assessment not available as chemical safety assessment not required/not conducted

12.6 Other adverse effects
No data available

SECTION 13: Disposal considerations

13.1 Waste treatment methods

Product
Offer surplus and non-recyclable solutions to a licensed disposal company. Contact a licensed professional waste disposal service to dispose of this material. Dissolve or mix the material with a combustible solvent and burn in a chemical incinerator equipped with an afterburner and scrubber.

Contaminated packaging
Dispose of as unused product.

SECTION 14: Transport information

DOT (US)
UN number: 1790 Class: 8 (6.1) Packing group: II
Proper shipping name: Hydrofluoric acid
Reportable Quantity (RQ): 208 lbs
Poison Inhalation Hazard: No

IMDG
UN number: 1790 Class: 8 (6.1) Packing group: II EMS-No: F-A, S-B
Proper shipping name: HYDROFLUORIC ACID

IATA
UN number: 1790 Class: 8 (6.1) Packing group: II
Proper shipping name: Hydrofluoric acid

SECTION 15: Regulatory information

SARA 302 Components

The following components are subject to reporting levels established by SARA Title III, Section 302:

	CAS-No.	Revision Date
Hydrofluoric acid	7664-39-3	2007-07-01

SARA 313 Components

The following components are subject to reporting levels established by SARA Title III, Section 313:

	CAS-No.	Revision Date
Hydrofluoric acid	7664-39-3	2007-07-01

SARA 311/312 Hazards

Acute Health Hazard, Chronic Health Hazard

Massachusetts Right To Know Components

No components are subject to the Massachusetts Right to Know Act.

Pennsylvania Right To Know Components

	CAS-No.	Revision Date
Water	7732-18-5	
Hydrofluoric acid	7664-39-3	2007-07-01

SECTION 16: Other information

Further information

The above information is believed to be correct but does not purport to be all inclusive and shall be used only as a guide. The information in this document is based on the present state of our knowledge and is applicable to the product with regard to appropriate safety precautions. It does not represent any guarantee of the properties of the product. Sigma-Aldrich Corporation and its Affiliates shall not be held liable for any damage resulting from handling or from contact with the above product. See www.sigma-aldrich.com and/or the reverse side of invoice or packing slip for additional terms and conditions of sale.

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