



## MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

(POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS)

### COMPOSITION/INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS

Ingredients Name: polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)

### HAZARD IDENTIFICATION

Reports of Carcinogenicity: YES

### HEALTH HAZARDS ACUTE AND CHRONIC

- **Eyes**: Moderately irritating to eye tissues.
- **Skin**: Can be absorbed through intact skin, may cause de-fatting, potential for chloracne.
- **Inhalation**: Possible liver injury.
- **Ingestion**: Slightly toxic; reasonably anticipated to be carcinogenic.

### EFFECTS OF OVER-EXPOSURE

Can cause dermatological symptoms; however, these are reversible upon removal of exposure source.

### FIRST AID MEASURES

- **Eyes**: Irrigate immediately with copious quantities of running water for at least 15 minutes if liquid or solid PCBs get into them.
- **Skin**: Contaminated clothing should be removed and the skin washed thoroughly with soap and water. Hot PCBs may cause thermal burns.
- **Inhalation**: Remove to fresh air; if skin rash or respiratory irritation persists, consult a physician (if electrical equipment arcs over, PCBs may decompose to produce hydrochloric acid).
- **Ingestion**: Consult a physician. Do not induce vomiting or give any oily laxatives. (If large amounts are ingested, gastric lavage is suggested).

**FIRE FIGHTING MEASURES**: Flash Point: >141 °C (285.8 °F)

**EXTINGUISHING MEDIA**: PCBs are fire-resistant compounds.

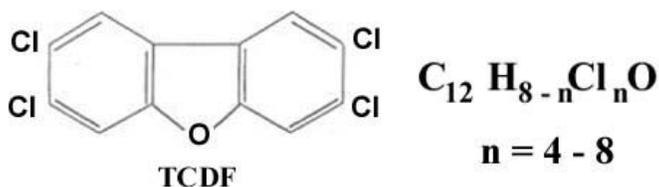
## FIRE-FIGHTING PROCEDURES

Standard fire-fighting wearing apparel and self-contained breathing apparatus should be worn when fighting fires that involve possible exposure to chemical combustion products. Fire fighting equipment should be thoroughly cleaned and decontaminated after use.

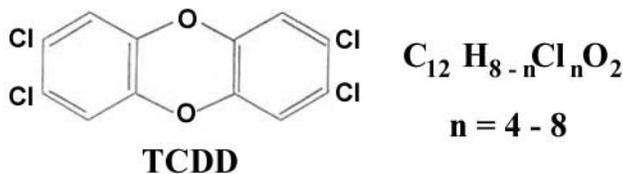
## UNUSUAL FIRE/EXPLOSION HAZARD

If a PCB transformer is involved in a fire-related incident, the owner of the transformer is required to report the incident. Consult and follow appropriate federal, provincial and local regulations.

*Note: When askarel liquid becomes involved in a fire, toxic by-products of combustion are typically produced including polychlorinated dibenzofurans and polychlorinated dibenzodioxins, both known carcinogens. The structures of these chemical species are as follows:*



**2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzofuran**



**2,3,7,8-tetrachloro-dibenzo-p-dioxin**

*Note: 2,3,7,8-tetrachloro-dibenzo-p-dioxin is one of the most potent teratogenic, mutagenic and carcinogenic agents known to man.*

## SPILL RELEASE PROCEDURES

Cleanup & disposal of liquid PCBs are strictly regulated by the federal government. Ventilate area. Contain spill/leak. Remove spill by means of absorptive material. Spill clean-up personnel should use proper protective clothing. All wastes and residues containing PCBs should be collected, containerized, marked and disposed of in the manner prescribed by applicable federal, provincial and local laws.

## HANDLING AND STORAGE PRECAUTIONS

Care should be taken to prevent entry into the environment through spills, leakage, use, vaporization, or disposal of liquid. Avoid prolonged breathing of vapours or mists. Avoid contact with eyes or prolonged contact with skin. Comply with all federal, provincial and local regulations.

## **OTHER PRECAUTIONS**

Federal regulations require PCBs, PCB items, storage areas, transformer vaults, and transport vehicles to be appropriately labelled.

## **RESPIRATORY PROTECTION**

Use OSHA approved equipment when airborne exposure limits are exceeded. Full facepiece equipment is recommended and, if used, replaces need for face shield and/or chemical splash goggles. The respirator use limitations specified by the manufacturer must be observed.

## **VENTILATION**

Provide natural or mechanical ventilation to control exposure levels below airborne exposure levels.

**PROTECTIVE GLOVES:** Wear appropriate chemical resistant gloves to prevent skin contact.

**EYE PROTECTION:** Wear chemical splash goggles and have eye baths available.

## **OTHER PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

Wear appropriate protective clothing. Provide a safety shower at any location where skin contact can occur.

## **WORK HYGIENIC PRACTICES**

Wash thoroughly after handling. Supplemental safety and health : none

## **PHYSICAL/CHEMICAL PROPERTIES**

- **Vapour pressure:** (mm Hg @100 °F) 0.005 - 0.00006
- **Viscosity:** (CENTISTOKES) 3.6 - 540
- **Stability indicator/materials to avoid:** Yes
- **Stability Condition to Avoid:** PCBs are very stable, fire-resistant compounds.

## **HAZARDOUS DECOMPOSITION PRODUCTS**

Carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, hydrogen chloride, phenolics, aldehydes, furans, dioxins

## **WASTE DISPOSAL METHODS**

Consult the applicable PCB regulations prior to any disposal of PCBs or PCB-contaminated items.