



FACT SHEET

Hexane, All Isomers

CAS Number: n-Hexane 110-54-3;
Other 4 Isomers

This fact sheet provides a summary of the Development Support Document (DSD) created by the TCEQ Toxicology Division (TD) for the development of Regulatory Guidelines (ESLs, AMCVs and ReVs) for ambient exposure to this chemical. For more detailed information, please see the DSD or contact the TD by phone (1-877-992-8370) or e-mail (tox@tceq.texas.gov).

What is hexane?

Hexane (n-hexane and isomers) is a colorless liquid with a gasoline-like, odor. Hexane is used as a solvent in the extraction of edible fats and oils in the food industry, as cleaning agents in textile and furniture manufacturing, in the printing industry, and as a base for many commercial products, such as glues, cements, paint thinners, and degreasers. Hexane is also a minor component of crude oil and natural gas. n-Hexane is also called hexane/mixed isomers, hexanes, dipropyl, Gettysolve-B, hex, hexyl hydride, normal hexane, and Skellysolve B.

How is hexane released into ambient air?

Hexane may be released into the air by evaporating into the atmosphere during handling, storage in fuel tanks, or through incomplete combustion. Hexane may also be released into the air at places where it is produced or used.

How can hexane affect my health?

Inhalation of high concentrations of n-hexane usually causes eye, nose, throat and respiratory irritation, or neurobehavioral effects, which are rapidly reversible when exposure is discontinued. Permitted levels of hexane should not cause adverse health and welfare effects. A significant number of long-term studies have been conducted in laboratory animals and humans. Long-term inhalation exposure to hexane mainly causes numbness in the arms and legs, a condition known as peripheral neuropathy. Hexane has not been classified as a human carcinogen by the TCEQ, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the National Toxicology Program, or the International Agency for Research on Cancer.

Can hexane cause odors or affect plants?

Hexane can cause a gasoline-like odor. Hexane exposure has not been shown to have adverse effects on plants.



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Why does the TCEQ set Regulatory Guidelines for hexane?

The TCEQ has set various air quality guideline levels (ESLs and ReVs) to protect human health and welfare. Please see Definitions of ESLs, ReVs, and AMCVs located on the TCEQ DSD webpage for more information. The ESLs and ReVs for hexane have been designed to protect the general public from short-term and long-term adverse health and welfare effects. The general public includes children, the elderly, pregnant women and people with preexisting health conditions. If you would like to know more about the specific ESLs and ReVs developed, what the values are and what they are used for, please see the DSD.