

Reading data sheets

Focus

The information in data sheets is usually presented in a similar way, whatever the product.

Issued December 2001

Polycell
extra-strong paste

PTP01

5. FIRE-FIGHTING MEASURES
Extinguishing media:
 Recommended – alcohol resistant foam, CO₂, powders.
 Not to be used – waterjet.
Recommendations:
 Fire will produce dense black smoke. Exposure to decomposition products may cause a health hazard. Firefighters should wear self-contained breathing apparatus. Closed containers exposed to fire should be cooled with water. Do not allow run-off from fire-fighting to enter drains or water-courses.
 This powder can produce flammable dust clouds in air.

6. ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES
 Refer to protection measures listed in section 8. Avoid breathing dust or vapours and ventilate the area. Contain and collect spillage with non-combustible absorbent materials, e.g. sand, earth, vermiculite or diatomaceous earth, and place in a container for disposal according to the local regulations (See section 13). Do not allow to enter drains or watercourses.
 Clean preferably with a detergent, avoid use of solvents. If the product contaminates lakes, rivers or sewages, inform appropriate authorities in accordance with local regulations.
Caution – Spillages may be very slippery.



Tips

Use these tips when reading complicated information:

- Read it more than once.
- Read it aloud, to yourself.
- Think about it in your own words.
- Break the sentences up into manageable chunks.
- Ask an expert to tell you what it's about.
- Explain it to somebody else.
- Use the punctuation to help you.
- Write notes of key points.
- Check the meanings of technical words.

You can find your way around a data sheet by using the:

- headings
- subheadings
- numbered sections
- lists.

You can spot these by noticing words that are numbered (1.), underlined, **bold**, *italic* and (in brackets).

Let your eyes scan over the pages as you look for the section you need.

You use the same technique when looking for a familiar face in a crowd.

When you find the section you need, read it quickly to get an idea of what it is about and decide if it is the part you want.

If it is the part you want, read it carefully. You may have to:

- find out the meaning of any words that are new to you.
- check that you have understood the technical words.
- find out what any abbreviations mean.



Polycell data sheet extract

Issued December 2001

Polycell extra-strong paste

PTP01

5. FIRE-FIGHTING MEASURES

Extinguishing media:

Recommended – alcohol resistant foam, CO₂, powders.

Not to be used – waterjet.

Recommendations:

Fire will produce dense black smoke. Exposure to decomposition products may cause a health hazard. Firefighters should wear self-contained breathing apparatus. Closed containers exposed to fire should be cooled with water. Do not allow run-off from fire-fighting to enter drains or water-courses.

This powder can produce flammable dust clouds in air.

6. ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES

Refer to protection measures listed in section 8. Avoid breathing dust or vapours and ventilate the area. Contain and collect spillage with non-combustible absorbent materials, e.g. sand, earth, vermiculite or diatomaceous earth, and place in a container for disposal according to the local regulations (See section 13). Do not allow to enter drains or watercourses.

Clean preferably with a detergent, avoid use of solvents. If the product contaminates lakes, rivers or sewages, inform appropriate authorities in accordance with local regulations.

Caution – Spillages may be very slippery.

7. HANDLING AND STORAGE

HANDLING CONDITIONS:

Avoid contact with the skin and eyes. Smoking, eating and drinking should be prohibited in the work area.

STORAGE CONDITIONS:

Store in a cool, dry, well ventilated place and keep container tightly closed.

Take precautionary measures against static discharge. Dusts – Operations which may produce dusts should be controlled so that appropriate exposure standards for dusts are not exceeded. Suitable respiratory equipment should be used in case of insufficient ventilation or where operational procedure demands it.

The principles contained in the HSE guidance note Storage of Packaged Dangerous Substances, should be observed when storing this product. Store separately from oxidising agents, strongly alkaline and strongly acidic materials, amines, alcohols and water.

8. EXPOSURE CONTROLS/PERSONAL PROTECTION

NO SUBSTANCE OEL DATA

OEL – Occupational Exposure Limits (HSE Guidance Note EH40)

Further guidance on OELs and assessment of occupational exposure to harmful materials (including mixed exposures) is given in HSE Guidance Note EH40.

RESPIRATORY PROTECTION:

Avoid the inhalation of vapour, particulates and spray mist. Where reasonably practicable, this should be achieved by the use of local exhaust ventilation and good general ventilation. If this is not sufficient to maintain concentrations of particulates and solvent vapour below the occupational exposure limit, respiratory protection must be worn.

The selection of respiratory equipment should be in accordance with BS 4275. Recommendations for the selection, use and maintenance of Respiratory Equipment, and the current certificates of approval are issued annually by the Health and Safety Executive.

When spray applying water-based paints suitable respiratory equipment should be worn that will protect against atomised paint and paint droplets.

HAND PROTECTION:

Wear suitable gloves for protection against materials in section 2.

EYE PROTECTION:

Wear suitable eye protection to BS 2092.

SKIN PROTECTION:

Wear appropriate protective clothing. Barrier creams may help to protect exposed areas of skin but are not a substitute for full physical protection.

Reading data sheets

Task

You will need the *Polycell* data sheet extract from the Source material for these tasks.

Task 1

- 1 How many sections are there on the page? _____
- 2 What is the title of Section 6? _____
- 3 How many subheadings are there under Section 7? _____

Task 2

Select a meaning for these phrases from the data sheet extract.
Tick your answer.

- 1 Fire-fighting measures are about:
 - a finding out the size of a fire ☐
 - b procedures for fighting a fire ☐
 - c fire-fighting fashions ☐
 - d measuring a fire so you can fight it. ☐
- 2 'Extinguishing media' means:
 - a putting out fires ☐
 - b putting out television, radio and newspapers ☐
 - c ways of putting out fires. ☐
- 3 In the sentence 'Exposure to decomposition products may cause a health hazard', 'decomposition products' means:
 - a the things that are produced as the paste breaks up ☐
 - b the things that are produced as the paste changes location ☐
 - c the things that are produced as the paste stops working. ☐

Task 3

Read the section on Fire-fighting measures carefully. Circle true or false.

- 1 It is suggested that a waterjet is used to put out a paste fire. True / False
- 2 Thick black smoke will come from a paste fire. True / False
- 3 It is OK for the water from the fire fighting to run into a river. True / False
- 4 The paste might produce clouds of dust that could burn. True / False