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# PROPIONIC ACID

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## 1. Product Identification

**Synonyms:** Methylacetic acid; ethylformic acid; propanoic Acid;  
carboxyethane

**CAS No.:** 79-09-4

**Molecular Weight:** 74.08

**Chemical Formula:** CH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>COOH

**Product Codes:**

J.T. Baker: U330

Mallinckrodt: 7179

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## 2. Composition/Information on Ingredients

Ingredient	CAS No	Percent
Hazardous		
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Propionic Acid	79-09-4	99 - 100%
Yes		

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## 3. Hazards Identification

**Emergency Overview**

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**DANGER! CORROSIVE. CAUSES BURNS TO ANY AREA OF CONTACT. FLAMMABLE LIQUID AND VAPOR. HARMFUL IF SWALLOWED, INHALED OR ABSORBED THROUGH SKIN.**

**SAF-T-DATA<sup>(tm)</sup>** Ratings (Provided here for your convenience)

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Health Rating: 3 - Severe (Life)

Flammability Rating: 2 - Moderate

Reactivity Rating: 1 - Slight

Contact Rating: 3 - Severe (Corrosive)

Lab Protective Equip: GOGGLES & SHIELD; LAB COAT & APRON;  
VENT HOOD; PROPER GLOVES; CLASS B EXTINGUISHER

Storage Color Code: Red (Flammable)

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**Potential Health Effects**

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**Inhalation:**

Causes irritation with unpleasant choking odor. Causes coughing and sneezing, possibly breathing difficulties in large amounts.

**Ingestion:**

Material causes irritation and burns to digestive tract. Symptoms may include abdominal pain, vomiting, and diarrhea.

**Skin Contact:**

Causes severe irritation. May have corrosive effects, producing skin burns. Skin absorption may occur with toxic effects.

**Eye Contact:**

Corrosive. Causes severe eye irritation and burns. May cause redness, pain, blurred vision, and eye damage.

**Chronic Exposure:**

May cause breathing difficulties.

**Aggravation of Pre-existing Conditions:**

Persons with pre-existing skin disorders or eye problems or impaired respiratory function may be more susceptible to the effects of the substance.

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## 4. First Aid Measures

**Inhalation:**

Remove to fresh air. If not breathing, give artificial respiration. If breathing is difficult, give oxygen. Call a physician.

**Ingestion:**

If swallowed, DO NOT INDUCE VOMITING. Give large quantities of water. Never give anything by mouth to an unconscious person. Get medical attention immediately. Call a physician.

**Skin Contact:**

In case of contact, immediately flush skin with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes while removing contaminated clothing and shoes. Wash clothing before reuse. Call a physician.

**Eye Contact:**

Immediately flush eyes with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes, lifting lower and upper eyelids occasionally. Get medical attention immediately.

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## 5. Fire Fighting Measures

**Fire:**

Flash point: 52C (126F) CC

Autoignition temperature: 513C (955F)

Flammable limits in air % by volume:

lcl: 2.9; ucl: 12.1

**Explosion:**

No information found.

**Fire Extinguishing Media:**

Water spray, dry chemical, alcohol foam, or carbon dioxide. Water may be used to flush spills away from exposures and to dilute spills to non-flammable mixtures.

**Special Information:**

In the event of a fire, wear full protective clothing and NIOSH-approved self-contained breathing apparatus with full facepiece operated in the pressure demand or other positive pressure mode.

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## 6. Accidental Release Measures

Ventilate area of leak or spill. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment as specified in Section 8. Isolate hazard area. Keep unnecessary and unprotected personnel from entering. Contain and recover liquid when possible. Neutralize with alkaline material (soda ash, lime), then absorb with an inert material (e. g., vermiculite, dry sand, earth), and place in a chemical waste container. Do not use combustible materials, such as saw dust. Do not flush to sewer! Remove all sources of ignition. Use non-sparking tools and equipment. Caution! Floor and other surfaces may be slippery. US Regulations (CERCLA) require reporting spills and releases to soil, water and air in excess of reportable quantities. The toll free number for the US Coast Guard National Response Center is (800) 424-8802.

J. T. Baker NEUTRASORB® or TEAM® 'Low Na+' acid neutralizers are recommended for spills of this product.

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## 7. Handling and Storage

Protect against physical damage. Outside or detached storage is preferred. Inside storage should be in a standard flammable liquids storage room or cabinet. Separate from oxidizing materials. Storage and use areas should be No Smoking areas. Containers of this material may be hazardous when empty since they retain product residues (vapors, liquid); observe all warnings and precautions listed for the product.

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## 8. Exposure Controls/Personal Protection

### **Airborne Exposure Limits:**

-ACGIH Threshold Limit Value (TLV): 10 ppm (TWA)

### **Ventilation System:**

A system of local and/or general exhaust is recommended to keep employee exposures below the Airborne Exposure Limits. Local exhaust ventilation is generally preferred because it can control the emissions of the contaminant at its source, preventing dispersion of it into the general work area. Please refer to the ACGIH document, *Industrial Ventilation, A Manual of Recommended Practices*, most recent edition, for details.

### **Personal Respirators (NIOSH Approved):**

If the exposure limit is exceeded and engineering controls are not feasible, a full facepiece respirator with organic vapor cartridge may be worn up to 50 times the exposure limit or the maximum use concentration specified by the appropriate regulatory agency or respirator supplier, whichever is lowest. For emergencies or instances where the exposure levels are not known, use a full-facepiece positive-pressure, air-supplied respirator.

**WARNING:** Air purifying respirators do not protect workers in oxygen-deficient atmospheres.

### **Skin Protection:**

Wear impervious protective clothing, including boots, gloves, lab coat, apron or coveralls, as appropriate, to prevent skin contact.

### **Eye Protection:**

Use chemical safety goggles and/or a full face shield where splashing is possible. Maintain eye wash fountain and quick-drench facilities in work area.

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## 9. Physical and Chemical Properties

**Appearance:**

Clear oily liquid.

**Odor:**

Slightly pungent irritating odor.

**Solubility:**

Miscible in water.

**Density:**

0.99

**pH:**

No information found.

**% Volatiles by volume @ 21C (70F):**

100

**Boiling Point:**

141C (286F)

**Melting Point:**

-20.8C (-6F)

**Vapor Density (Air=1):**

2.6

**Vapor Pressure (mm Hg):**

3.3 @ 27.6C (82F)

**Evaporation Rate (BuAc=1):**

No information found.

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## 10. Stability and Reactivity

**Stability:**

Stable under ordinary conditions of use and storage.

**Hazardous Decomposition Products:**

Carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide may form when heated to decomposition.

**Hazardous Polymerization:**

Will not occur.

**Incompatibilities:**

Strong oxidizers, strong bases.

**Conditions to Avoid:**

Heat, ignition sources and incompatibililites.

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## 11. Toxicological Information

Oral rat LD50: 2600 mg/kg. Skin rabbit LD50: 500 mg/kg Open Draize, Skin rabbit 495 mg open severe. Standard Draize, Eye rabbit 990 ug severe. Investigated as a mutagen.

-----\Cancer Lists\-----			
Ingredient Category	---NTP Carcinogen---		IARC
	Known	Anticipated	
Propionic Acid (79-09-4) None	No	No	

## 12. Ecological Information

### Environmental Fate:

When released into the soil, this material is expected to readily biodegrade. When released into the soil, this material is expected to quickly evaporate. When released into the soil, this material may leach into groundwater. When released into water, this material is not expected to evaporate significantly. When released into water, this material is expected to readily biodegrade. When released into the water, this material is expected to have a half-life between 1 and 10 days. This material has an experimentally-determined bioconcentration factor (BCF) of less than 100. This material is not expected to significantly bioaccumulate. When released into the air, this material is expected to be readily degraded by reaction with photochemically produced hydroxyl radicals. When released into air, this material is expected to have a half-life between 10 and 30 days.

### Environmental Toxicity:

This material is not expected to be toxic to aquatic life. The LC50/96-hour values for fish are over 100 mg/l.

## 13. Disposal Considerations

Whatever cannot be saved for recovery or recycling should be handled as hazardous waste and sent to a RCRA approved incinerator or disposed in a RCRA approved waste facility. Processing, use or contamination of this product may change the waste management options. State and local disposal regulations may differ from federal disposal regulations. Dispose of container and unused contents in accordance with federal, state and local requirements.

## 14. Transport Information

**Domestic (Land, D.O.T.)**

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**Proper Shipping Name:** FLAMMABLE LIQUID, CORROSIVE N.O.S.  
(PROPIONIC ACID)

**Hazard Class:** 3, 8

**UN/NA:** UN2924

Packing Group: III

**Information reported for product/size:** 4L

**International (Water, I.M.O.)**

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**Proper Shipping Name:** FLAMMABLE LIQUID, CORROSIVE N.O.S.  
(PROPIONIC ACID)

**Hazard Class:** 3, 8

**UN/NA:** UN2924

Packing Group: III

**Information reported for product/size:** 4L

**International (Air, I.C.A.O.)**

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**Proper Shipping Name:** FLAMMABLE LIQUID, CORROSIVE N.O.S.  
(PROPIONIC ACID)

**Hazard Class:** 3, 8

**UN/NA:** UN2924

Packing Group: III

**Information reported for product/size:** 4L

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## 15. Regulatory Information

-----\Chemical Inventory Status - Part 1\-----  
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Ingredient TSCA EC Japan  
Australia  
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Propionic Acid (79-09-4) Yes Yes Yes  
Yes

-----\Chemical Inventory Status - Part 2\-----  
-----  
Ingredient Korea --Canada--  
Phil. DSL NDSL  
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-----  
Propionic Acid (79-09-4) Yes Yes No  
Yes

-----\Federal, State & International Regulations - Part 1\-----			
313-----	-SARA 302-	-----SARA	
Ingredient Chemical Catg.	RQ	TPQ	List
----- Propionic Acid (79-09-4) No	No	No	No

-----\Federal, State & International Regulations - Part 2\-----			
TSCA-	-RCRA-	-	
Ingredient	CERCLA	261.33	8(d)
- Propionic Acid (79-09-4)	5000	No	No

Chemical Weapons Convention: No      TSCA 12(b): No      CDTA: No  
SARA 311/312: Acute: Yes      Chronic: Yes      Fire: Yes      Pressure: No  
Reactivity: No      (Pure / Liquid)

**Australian Hazchem Code:** 2P  
**Poison Schedule:** None allocated.  
**WHMIS:**

This MSDS has been prepared according to the hazard criteria of the Controlled Products Regulations (CPR) and the MSDS contains all of the information required by the CPR.

## 16. Other Information

**NFPA Ratings:** Health: **3** Flammability: **2** Reactivity: **0**

**Label Hazard Warning:**

DANGER! CORROSIVE. CAUSES BURNS TO ANY AREA OF CONTACT. FLAMMABLE LIQUID AND VAPOR. HARMFUL IF SWALLOWED, INHALED OR ABSORBED THROUGH SKIN.

**Label Precautions:**

- Do not get in eyes, on skin, or on clothing.
- Avoid breathing mist.
- Keep container closed.
- Use only with adequate ventilation.
- Wash thoroughly after handling.
- Keep away from heat, sparks and flame.

**Label First Aid:**



If swallowed, DO NOT INDUCE VOMITING. Give large quantities of water. Never give anything by mouth to an unconscious person. Never give anything by mouth to an unconscious person. If inhaled, remove to fresh air. If not breathing, give artificial respiration. If breathing is difficult, give oxygen. In case of contact, immediately flush eyes or skin with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes while removing contaminated clothing and shoes. Wash clothing before reuse. In all cases call a physician.

**Product Use:**

Laboratory Reagent.

**Revision Information:**

MSDS Section(s) changed since last revision of document include: 3, 5, 14.

**Disclaimer:**

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**Prepared by:** Environmental Health & Safety

Phone Number: (314) 654-1600 (U.S.A.)