**How to read a Chemical Label**

Hazardous materials should always be properly labeled. One common type of label is the US National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) system. Although they look rather simplistic, an NFPA label carries a lot of information for those who understand how to interpret it. For example, NFPA labels are color- coded. Each color on the label

represents a different type of hazard.

**EXAMPLE Blue = Health hazard Red = Fire hazard**

**Yellow = Reactivity hazard**

**White = Special hazard**

**What these colors represent must be remembered first.**

On top of the color coding, NFPA also uses a numbering system. On every NFPA label, there should be a number from zero to four inside the blue, red and yellow areas. The numbers indicate the degree of a particular hazard.

**0 = minimal hazard**

**1 = slight hazard**

**2 = moderate hazard**

**3 = serious hazard**

**4 = severe hazard**

**The Blue Section** - Health Risks

The substance is a severe health risk if the substance is not handled safely. Substances carrying a four in the blue section could c cause death or irreversible injury.

4

3 The substance could cause serious temporary or irreversible injury.

2 The substance could cause temporary incapacitation.

1 The substance could cause irritation.

0 There is no health hazard.

**The Red Section** - Fire Risks

4 A flammable vapor or gas which burns readily.

3 A flammable liquid or solid which can be readily ignited.

2 The substance must be heated for ignition.

1 The substance must be preheated before ignition can occur.

0 There is no fire hazard.

**The Yellow Section** - Reactivity Hazards

4 The substance is readily capable of detonation or explosive reaction.

3 The substance may detonate when exposed to heat or an ignition source.

2 The substance is readily capable of non-explosive reaction.

1 The substance may become unstable at high temperatures.

0 The substance is stable.

**The White Section** - Special Hazards

OX Oxidizer ACID Acid ALK Alkali

COR Corrosive

Use no water

Radioactive

Regardless of the numbers on the label - even if they carry ones or zeros - be cautious. All chemicals should be treated with the utmost of care.

Users must also have the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) on hand for all chemicals they use. The MSDS contain detail information on:

 Name & trade name of the substance

 Hazardous ingredient(s) it contains

 Physical characteristics of the chemical

 Protective equipment to be used

 What to do in event of a leak or spill

 Any other precautions to be followed

*Adapted for print from:* [*http://www.ab.ust.hk/sepo/tips/ls/ls004.htm.*](http://www.ab.ust.hk/sepo/tips/ls/ls004.htm)

**Section 1 — Chemical Product and Company Identification**

**Acetone**

Flinn Scientific, Inc. P.O. Box 219 Batavia, IL 60510 (800) 452-1261

CHEMTREC Emergency Phone Number: (800) 424-9300

**Section 2 — Composition, Information on Ingredients**

Acetone

Synonyms: dimethyl ketone, 2-propanone

CAS#:

67-64-1

**Section 3 — Hazards Identification**

Colorless liquid with sweet odor.

Class 1B Flammable liquid; serious fire hazard.

Irritating to body tissues. Avoid all body tissue contact. Slightly toxic by ingestion. Vapor causes weakness, fatigue, nausea and headache. Skin contact causes dermatitis.

**FLINN AT-A-GLANCE**

Health-1

Flammability-3

Reactivity-2

Exposure-1

Storage-3

0 is low hazard, 3 is high hazard

**Section 4 — First Aid Measures**

Call a physician, seek medical attention for further treatment, observation and support after first aid. Inhalation: Remove to fresh air at once. If breathing has stopped give artificial respiration immediately. Eye: Immediately flush with fresh water for 15 minutes.

External: Wash continuously with fresh water and mild liquid soap for 15 minutes.

Internal: Give no more than 1-2 cups of water for dilution. Do not induce vomiting. Call a physician or poison control immediately.

**Section 5 — Fire Fighting Measures**

Class 1B Flammable liquid.

A dangerous fire hazard from heat, flame or strong oxidizers. Flash point: 0 F (CC) Flammable limits: lower 2.6%, upper 12.8%. Autoignition temperature: 869 F

**Fire Fighting Instructions:** Use triclass, dry chemical fire extinguisher. Firefighters should wear PPE

and SCBA with full facepiece operated in positive pressure mode.

**NFPA CODE**

H-1

F-3

R-0

**Section 6 — Accidental Release Measures**

Restrict unprotected personnel from area. Remove all ignition sources and ventilate area. Contain spill with sand, and absorbent material; deposit in sealed bag or container. See Sections 8 and 13 for further information.

**Section 7 — Handling and Storage**

Flinn Suggested Chemical Storage Pattern: Organic #4. Store with ethers, ketones, halogenated hydrocarbons and ethylene oxide. Store in a dedicated flammables cabinet. If a flammables cabinet is not available, store in Flinn Saf-Stor Can.

Use and dispense in a hood.

**Section 8 — Exposure Controls , Personal Protection** Avoid contact with eyes, skin and clothing. Wear chemical splash goggles, chemical-resistant gloves and chemical-resistant apron. Use ventilation to keep airborne concentrations below exposure limits. Always wear a NIOSH-approved respirator with proper

cartridges or a positive pressure, air-supplied respirator when handling this material in emergency situations (spill or fire).

Exposure guidelines: TWA 750 ppm, STEL 1000 ppm (OSHA, ACGIH)

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**Section 9 — Physical and Chemical Properties**

Sweet odor. Colorless liquid.

Solubility: Miscible with water, alcohol and ether. Formula: CH3COCH3

Formula Weight: 58.08

Melting Point: -94.6 C Boiling Point: 56.5 C

Vapor Pressure: 180mm @ 68 F Vapor Density: 2.00

Density: 0.79

**Section 10 — Stability and Reactivity**

Stable. Potentially explosive reaction with strong oxidizing agents and halogenated compounds. Shelf life: Good, if stored safely.

**Section 11 — Toxicological Information**

Acute effects: severe eye irritant Chronic effects: causes dermatitis Target organs: liver, kidneys

ORL-RAT LD50: 5800 mg/kg

IHL-RAT LC50: 50100 mg/m3/8H SKN-RBT LD50: 20 g/kg

N.A. = Not available, not all health aspects of this substance have been fully investigated.

**Section 12 — Ecological Information**

Data not yet available.

**Section 13 — Disposal Considerations**

Please consult with state and local regulations.

Flinn Suggested Disposal Method 18a is one option.

 **Section 14 — Transport Information**

Shipping Name: Acetone

Hazard Class: 3, Flammable Liquid

UN Number: UN1090

N/A = Not applicable

**Section 15 — Regulatory Information**

TSCA-listed, EINECS-listed (200-662-2), RCRA code U002

**Section 16 — Other Information**

Consult your copy of the Flinn Scientific Catalog/Reference Manual for additional information about laboratory chemicals. This Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) is for guidance and is based upon information and tests believed to be reliable. Flinn Scientific Inc. makes no guarantee of the accuracy or completeness of the data and shall not be liable for any damages relating thereto. The data is offered solely for your consideration, investigation, and verification. Flinn Scientific Inc. assumes no legal responsibility for use or reliance upon this data.

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***Flinn--"Your Safer Source for Chemicals"***

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