

# SAFETY DATA SHEET

Creation Date 21-Jan-2011

Revision Date 18-Dec-2025

Revision Number 9

This safety data sheet was created pursuant to the requirements of: US OSHA Hazard Communication Standard 2024 (29 CFR 1910.1200)

## 1. Identification

**Product Name** Potassium cyanide

**Cat No. :** P223I-100; P223I-500

**CAS No** 151-50-8  
**Synonyms** Cyanide of potassium; Hydrocyanic acid, potassium salt; KCN.

**Recommended Use** Laboratory chemicals.  
**Uses advised against** Food, drug, pesticide or biocidal product use.

### Details of the supplier of the safety data sheet

#### Company

Fisher Scientific Company  
One Reagent Lane  
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410  
Tel: (201) 796-7100

#### **Emergency Telephone Number**

CHEMTREC®, Inside the USA: 800-424-9300  
CHEMTREC®, Outside the USA: 001-703-527-3887

## 2. Hazard(s) identification

### Classification

This chemical is considered hazardous according to [US] OSHA (29 CFR 1910.1200, 2024)

Corrosive to metals	Category 1
Acute oral toxicity	Category 1
Acute dermal toxicity	Category 1
Acute Inhalation Toxicity - Dusts and Mists	Category 1
Specific target organ toxicity - (repeated exposure)	Category 1
Target Organs - Heart, Cardiovascular system.	

### Label Elements

#### **Signal Word**

Danger

#### **Hazard Statements**

May be corrosive to metals

Causes damage to organs through prolonged or repeated exposure  
 Fatal if swallowed, in contact with skin or if inhaled



### Precautionary Statements

#### Prevention

Wash face, hands and any exposed skin thoroughly after handling  
 Do not eat, drink or smoke when using this product  
 Do not get in eyes, on skin, or on clothing  
 Wear protective gloves/protective clothing/eye protection/face protection  
 Do not breathe dust/fume/gas/mist/vapors/spray  
 Use only outdoors or in a well-ventilated area  
 Wear respiratory protection  
 Keep only in original packaging

#### Response

Get medical attention/advice if you feel unwell

#### Inhalation

IF INHALED: Remove person to fresh air and keep comfortable for breathing  
 Immediately call a POISON CENTER or doctor

#### Skin

Immediately call a POISON CENTER or doctor  
 IF ON SKIN: Wash with plenty of soap and water  
 Take off immediately all contaminated clothing  
 Take off contaminated clothing and wash before reuse

#### Ingestion

IF SWALLOWED: Immediately call a POISON CENTER or doctor  
 Rinse mouth

#### Spills

Absorb spillage to prevent material damage

#### Storage

Store locked up  
 Store in a well-ventilated place. Keep container tightly closed  
 Store in corrosive resistant polypropylene container with a resistant inliner  
 Store in a dry place

#### Disposal

Dispose of contents/container to an approved waste disposal plant

#### Hazards not otherwise classified (HNOC)

Very toxic to aquatic life with long lasting effects

#### Hazards classified under paragraph (d)(1)(ii) of 1910.1200

#### Hazards resulting from a reaction with other chemicals under normal conditions of use

Contact with acids liberates very toxic gas. Contact with acids liberates toxic gas.

WARNING. Reproductive Harm - <https://www.p65warnings.ca.gov/>.

### 3. Composition/information on Ingredients

Component	CAS No	Weight %
Potassium cyanide	151-50-8	>95

## 4. First-aid measures

<b>General Advice</b>	Show this safety data sheet to the doctor in attendance. Immediate medical attention is required.
<b>Eye Contact</b>	In the case of contact with eyes, rinse immediately with plenty of water and seek medical advice. Rinse immediately with plenty of water, also under the eyelids, for at least 15 minutes.
<b>Skin Contact</b>	Wash off immediately with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes. Immediate medical attention is required.
<b>Inhalation</b>	Remove to fresh air. If not breathing, give artificial respiration. Do not use mouth-to-mouth method if victim ingested or inhaled the substance; give artificial respiration with the aid of a pocket mask equipped with a one-way valve or other proper respiratory medical device. Immediate medical attention is required.
<b>Ingestion</b>	Do NOT induce vomiting. Call a physician or poison control center immediately.
<b>Most important symptoms and effects</b>	Systemic Toxicity: Respiratory disorders: Symptoms may include tightness in the chest, flushing, headache, nausea, vomiting, respiratory depression, weakness, irregular heartbeat, abdominal pain, convulsions, and shock: May cause cyanosis (bluish discoloration of skin due to deficient oxygenation of the blood): Exposure may result in death
<b>Notes to Physician</b>	Treat symptomatically

## 5. Fire-fighting measures

<b>Suitable Extinguishing Media</b>	Use extinguishing measures that are appropriate to local circumstances and the surrounding environment.
<b>Unsuitable Extinguishing Media</b>	No information available
<b>Flash Point</b>	No information available
<b>Method -</b>	No information available
<b>Autoignition Temperature</b>	Not applicable
<b>Explosion Limits</b>	
<b>Upper</b>	No data available
<b>Lower</b>	No data available
<b>Sensitivity to Mechanical Impact</b>	No information available
<b>Sensitivity to Static Discharge</b>	No information available

### Specific Hazards Arising from the Chemical

Non-combustible. Do not allow run-off from fire-fighting to enter drains or water courses.

### Hazardous Combustion Products

Nitrogen oxides (NOx). Hydrogen cyanide (hydrocyanic acid). Potassium oxides.

### Protective Equipment and Precautions for Firefighters

As in any fire, wear self-contained breathing apparatus pressure-demand, MSHA/NIOSH (approved or equivalent) and full protective gear. Thermal decomposition can lead to release of irritating gases and vapors.

### NFPA

<b>Health</b>	<b>Flammability</b>	<b>Instability</b>	<b>Physical hazards</b>
4	0	1	N/A

## 6. Accidental release measures

<b>Personal Precautions</b>	Ensure adequate ventilation. Use personal protective equipment as required. Avoid dust
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formation. Keep people away from and upwind of spill/leak. Evacuate personnel to safe areas.

**Environmental Precautions** Should not be released into the environment.

**Methods for Containment and Clean Up** Sweep up and shovel into suitable containers for disposal. Avoid dust formation.

## 7. Handling and Storage

**Handling** Do not get in eyes, on skin, or on clothing. Wear personal protective equipment/face protection. Avoid dust formation. Use only under a chemical fume hood. Do not breathe (dust, vapor, mist, gas). Do not ingest. If swallowed then seek immediate medical assistance.

**Storage.** Keep in a dry, cool and well-ventilated place. Keep container tightly closed. Keep locked up. Keep away from acids. Keep away from combustible material. Do not store in aluminum containers. Incompatible Materials. Acids. Strong oxidizing agents. Bases. Finely powdered metals. Aldehydes. Peroxides. Metals.

## 8. Exposure controls / personal protection

### Exposure Guidelines

Component	ACGIH TLV	OSHA PEL	NIOSH	Mexico OEL (TWA)
Potassium cyanide	Ceiling: 5 mg/m <sup>3</sup> Skin	(Vacated) TWA: 5 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	IDLH: 25 mg/m <sup>3</sup> Ceiling: 4.7 ppm Ceiling: 5 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	Ceiling: 5 mg/m <sup>3</sup>

### Legend

ACGIH - American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists

OSHA - Occupational Safety and Health Administration

NIOSH: NIOSH - National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

**Engineering Measures** Use only under a chemical fume hood. Ensure that eyewash stations and safety showers are close to the workstation location.

### Personal Protective Equipment

**Eye/face Protection** Wear appropriate protective eyeglasses or chemical safety goggles as described by OSHA's eye and face protection regulations in 29 CFR 1910.133 or European Standard EN166.

**Skin and body protection** Wear appropriate protective gloves and clothing to prevent skin exposure.

**Respiratory Protection** Follow the OSHA respirator regulations found in 29 CFR 1910.134 or European Standard EN 149. Use a NIOSH/MSHA or European Standard EN 149 approved respirator if exposure limits are exceeded or if irritation or other symptoms are experienced.

**Recommended Filter type:** Particulates filter conforming to EN 143.

**Hygiene Measures** Handle in accordance with good industrial hygiene and safety practice.

## 9. Physical and chemical properties

### Appearance

**Physical State** Powder Solid  
**Color** White  
**Odor** bitter almonds

<b>Odor Threshold</b>	No information available		
<b>Property</b>	<b>Values</b>	<b>Remarks</b>	<b>Method</b>
<b>Melting Point/Range</b>	634 °C / 1173.2 °F		
<b>Softening Point</b>	No data available		
<b>Boiling Point/Range</b>	1625 °C / 2957 °F		
<b>Flash Point</b>	No information available	<b>Method -</b>	No information available
<b>Flammability (liquid)</b>	Not applicable	Solid	
<b>Flammability (solid,gas)</b>	No information available		
<b>Explosion Limits</b>	No data available		
<b>Autoignition Temperature</b>	Not applicable		
<b>Decomposition Temperature</b>	No data available		
<b>pH</b>	11-12	20 g/l aq.sol.(20°C)	
<b>Viscosity</b>	Not applicable	Solid	
<b>Water Solubility</b>	400 g/L (20°C)		
<b>Solubility in other solvents</b>	No information available		
<b>Partition Coefficient (n-octanol/water)</b>			
<b>Vapor Pressure</b>	No data available		
<b>Density / Specific Gravity</b>	1.52 @ 16°C		
<b>Bulk Density</b>	No data available		
<b>Vapor Density</b>	Not applicable	Solid	
<b>Particle characteristics</b>	No data available		
<b>Other Information</b>			
<b>Molecular Formula</b>	C K N		
<b>Molecular Weight</b>	65.12		
<b>Evaporation Rate</b>	Not applicable - Solid		

## 10. Stability and reactivity

<b>Reactive Hazard</b>	Yes
<b>Stability</b>	Moisture sensitive.
<b>Conditions to Avoid</b>	Excess heat. Burning produces obnoxious and toxic fumes. Incompatible products. Exposure to light. Exposure to moist air or water. Exposure to air.
<b>Incompatible Materials</b>	Acids, Strong oxidizing agents, Bases, Finely powdered metals, Aldehydes, Peroxides, Metals
<b>Hazardous Decomposition Products</b>	Nitrogen oxides (NOx), Hydrogen cyanide (hydrocyanic acid), Potassium oxides
<b>Hazardous Polymerization</b>	Hazardous polymerization does not occur.
<b>Hazardous Reactions</b>	None under normal processing.

## 11. Toxicological information

### Information on expected route of exposure

<b>Inhalation</b>	Toxic by inhalation. Avoid breathing dust or spray mist.
<b>Ingestion</b>	May be harmful if swallowed.
<b>Eyes</b>	Avoid contact with eyes.
<b>Skin</b>	Avoid contact with skin. Harmful in contact with skin.

### Toxicology data for the components

Component	LD50 Oral	LD50 Dermal	LC50 Inhalation
Potassium cyanide	LD50 = 7.49 mg/kg ( Rat )	LD50 = 22.3 mg/kg ( Rabbit )	LC50 = 0.16 mg/L ( Rat ) 1 h

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**Toxicologically Synergistic Products** No information available

**(b) skin corrosion/irritation;** Based on available data, the classification criteria are not met

**(c) serious eye damage/irritation;** Based on available data, the classification criteria are not met

**(d) respiratory or skin sensitization;**  
**Respiratory** Based on available data, the classification criteria are not met  
**Skin** Based on available data, the classification criteria are not met

**(e) germ cell mutagenicity;** Based on available data, the classification criteria are not met

**(f) carcinogenicity;** Based on available data, the classification criteria are not met  
 The table below indicates whether each agency has listed any ingredient as a carcinogen

Component	CAS No	IARC	NTP	ACGIH	OSHA	Mexico
Potassium cyanide	151-50-8	Not listed	Not listed	Not listed	Not listed	Not listed

**(g) reproductive toxicity;** Based on available data, the classification criteria are not met

**(h) STOT-single exposure;** Based on available data, the classification criteria are not met

**(i) STOT-repeated exposure;** Category 1  
**Target Organs** Heart, Thyroid, Cardiovascular system, Central nervous system (CNS).

**(j) aspiration hazard;** Not applicable  
 Solid

**Symptoms / effects, both acute and delayed** Systemic Toxicity. Respiratory disorders. Symptoms may include tightness in the chest, flushing, headache, nausea, vomiting, respiratory depression, weakness, irregular heartbeat, abdominal pain, convulsions, and shock. May cause cyanosis (bluish discoloration of skin due to deficient oxygenation of the blood). Exposure may result in death.

**Other Adverse Effects** The toxicological properties have not been fully investigated.

**Endocrine Disrupting Properties** This product does not contain any known or suspected endocrine disruptors.

## 12. Ecological information

### Ecotoxicity

Very toxic to aquatic organisms, may cause long-term adverse effects in the aquatic environment. The product contains following substances which are hazardous for the environment.

Component	Freshwater Algae	Freshwater Fish	Microtox	Water Flea
Potassium cyanide	Not listed	LC50: 0.31 - 0.37 mg/L, 96h static (Pimephales promelas) LC50: = 0.0588 mg/L, 96h	Not listed	Not listed

		flow-through (Poecilia reticulata) LC50: 0.45 - 0.57 mg/L, 96h flow-through (Lepomis macrochirus) LC50: = 0.45 mg/L, 96h (Lepomis macrochirus) LC50: 0.01 - 0.08 mg/L, 96h static (Lepomis macrochirus) LC50: 0.044 - 0.084 mg/L, 96h static (Oncorhynchus mykiss) LC50: 0.04 - 0.046 mg/L, 96h flow-through (Oncorhynchus mykiss)		
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**Persistence and Degradability** Soluble in water Persistence is unlikely based on information available.

**Bioaccumulation/ Accumulation** No information available.

**Mobility** Will likely be mobile in the environment due to its water solubility.

### 13. Disposal considerations

**Waste Disposal Methods** Chemical waste generators must determine whether a discarded chemical is classified as a hazardous waste. Chemical waste generators must also consult local, regional, and national hazardous waste regulations to ensure complete and accurate classification.

Component	RCRA - U Series Wastes	RCRA - P Series Wastes
Potassium cyanide - 151-50-8	-	not otherwise specified

### 14. Transport information

#### DOT

UN-No UN1680  
 Proper Shipping Name POTASSIUM CYANIDE, SOLID  
 Hazard Class 6.1  
 Packing Group I

#### TDG

UN-No UN1680  
 Proper Shipping Name POTASSIUM CYANIDE, SOLID  
 Hazard Class 6.1  
 Packing Group I

#### IATA

UN-No UN1680  
 Proper Shipping Name POTASSIUM CYANIDE, SOLID  
 Hazard Class 6.1  
 Packing Group I

#### IMDG/IMO

UN-No UN1680  
 Proper Shipping Name POTASSIUM CYANIDE, SOLID  
 Hazard Class 6.1  
 Packing Group I

### 15. Regulatory Information

#### United States of America Inventory

Component	CAS No	TSCA	TSCA Inventory notification - Active-Inactive	TSCA - EPA Regulatory Flags
Potassium cyanide	151-50-8	X	ACTIVE	-

Legend:

**TSCA** US EPA (TSCA) - Toxic Substances Control Act, (40 CFR Part 710)

X - Listed

'-' - Not Listed

**TSCA - Per 40 CFR 751, Regulation of Certain Chemical Substances & Mixtures, Under TSCA Section 6(h) (PBT)** Not applicable

**TSCA 12(b)** - Notices of Export Not applicable

### International Inventories

Canada (DSL/NDSL), Europe (EINECS/ELINCS/NLP), Philippines (PICCS), Japan (ENCS), Japan (ISHL), Australia (AICS), China (IECSC), Korea (KECL).

Component	CAS No	DSL	NDSL	EINECS	PICCS	ENCS	ISHL	AICS	IECSC	KECL
Potassium cyanide	151-50-8	X	-	205-792-3	X	X	X	X	X	KE-29092

KECL - NIER number or KE number (<http://ncis.nier.go.kr/en/main.do>)

### U.S. Federal Regulations

#### SARA 313

Section 313 of Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA). This product contains a chemical or chemicals which are subject to the reporting requirements of the Act and Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 372.

Component	CAS No	Weight %	SARA 313 - Threshold Values %	SARA 313 - Reporting thresholds
Potassium cyanide	151-50-8	>95	1.0 %	-

#### SARA 311/312 Hazard Categories

Should this product meet EPCRA 311/312 Tier reporting criteria at 40 CFR 370, refer to Section 2 of this SDS for appropriate classifications.

#### CWA (Clean Water Act)

Component	CWA - Hazardous Substances	CWA - Reportable Quantities	CWA - Toxic Pollutants	CWA - Priority Pollutants
Potassium cyanide	X	10 lb	X	X

#### Clean Air Act

Component	HAPS Data	Class 1 Ozone Depletors	Class 2 Ozone Depletors
Potassium cyanide	X		-

**OSHA** - Occupational Safety and Health Administration Not applicable

#### CERCLA

This material, as supplied, contains one or more substances regulated as a hazardous substance under the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) (40 CFR 302) or the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) (40 CFR 355).

Component	Hazardous Substances RQs	CERCLA Extremely Hazardous Substances RQs	SARA Reportable Quantity (RQ)
Potassium cyanide	10 lb	10 lb	10 lb 4.54 kg

#### California Proposition 65

This product contains the following Proposition 65 chemicals.

Component	CAS No	California Prop. 65	Prop 65 NSRL	Category
Potassium cyanide	151-50-8	Male Reproductive	-	Developmental

**U.S. State Right-to-Know Regulations**

Component	Massachusetts	New Jersey	Pennsylvania	Illinois	Rhode Island
Potassium cyanide	X	X	X	X	X

**U.S. Department of Transportation**

Reportable Quantity (RQ):	Y
DOT Marine Pollutant	Y
DOT Severe Marine Pollutant	N

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security**

This product contains the following DHS chemicals:

**Legend** - STQs = Screening Threshold Quantities, APA = A placarded amount

Component	DHS Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standard
Potassium cyanide	APA

**Other International Regulations****Mexico - Grade** No information available**Authorisation/Restrictions according to EU REACH**

Component	CAS No	REACH (1907/2006) - Annex XIV - Substances Subject to Authorization	REACH (1907/2006) - Annex XVII - Restrictions on Certain Dangerous Substances	REACH Regulation (EC 1907/2006) article 59 - Candidate List of Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC)
Potassium cyanide	151-50-8	-	Use restricted. See entry 75. (see link for restriction details)	-

**REACH links**<https://echa.europa.eu/substances-restricted-under-reach>**Safety, health and environmental regulations/legislation specific for the substance or mixture**

Component	CAS No	OECD HPV	Persistent Organic Pollutant	Ozone Depletion Potential	Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS)
Potassium cyanide	151-50-8	Listed	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

**Contains component(s) that meet a 'definition' of per & poly fluoroalkyl substance (PFAS)?**

Not applicable

**Other International Regulations**

Component	CAS No	Seveso III Directive (2012/18/EC) - Qualifying Quantities for Major Accident Notification	Seveso III Directive (2012/18/EC) - Qualifying Quantities for Safety Report Requirements	Rotterdam Convention (PIC)	Basel Convention (Hazardous Waste)
Potassium cyanide	151-50-8	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Annex I - Y33

**16. Other Information****Prepared By**

Product stewardship (Regulatory Affairs)

Thermo Fisher Scientific  
email - begel.sdsdesk@thermofisher.com

**Creation Date** 21-Jan-2011  
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**Print Date** 18-Dec-2025  
**Revision Summary** Updated to the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) which published its Final Rule in the Federal Register revising the Hazard Communication Standard (HCS/HazCom), 29 CFR 1910.1200 (2024) (HCS §1910.1200, 2024), May 20, 2024, effective July 19, 2024.

**Disclaimer**

The information provided in this Safety Data Sheet is correct to the best of our knowledge, information and belief at the date of its publication. The information given is designed only as a guidance for safe handling, use, processing, storage, transportation, disposal and release and is not to be considered a warranty or quality specification. The information relates only to the specific material designated and may not be valid for such material used in combination with any other materials or in any process, unless specified in the text

**End of SDS**