AMHERST COLLEGE

| Owner **C.H.O** | DOC. NO. SOP | REV. 2 | DATE **12/9/2019** |
|---|---|---|---|
| DOC. TITLE **SOP FOR SODIUM AZIDE** | | | |

Environmental Health & Safety

# STANDARD OPERATION PROCEDURES FOR WORKING WITH <u>SODIUM AZIDE</u> AT AMHERST COLLEGE

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### General Information

Sodium Azide is an acutely hazardous, odorless solid, that poses considerable risk to lab personnel. It is commonly used as an explosive trigger in airbags, and a toxic component in pesticides.

Sodium Azide poses considerable risks to humans and the environment and hence special precautions must be taken in both its use and disposal

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### Personal Protective Equipment

When working with Sodium Azide, the following personal protective equipment (PPE) **must** be worn:

Splash goggles

Lab coat

Long pants

Close toed shoes

Nitrile Gloves (double–gloving is recommended). Change glove immediately upon contact. Dispose gloves separately as P-coded waste

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### Safety Devices

Fume hood – always work with Sodium Azide in a fume hood to prevent exposure by inhalation

Identify the location of all the safety devices in the room before beginning your procedure. Also, familiarize yourself with all the possible means of egress

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### Specific Health Hazards

Note that Sodium Azide has a recommended Skin exposure ceiling value of $0.3 mg/m^3$. This means that, at no time, personnel should come into contact with a concentration higher than this.

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Short term exposure to Sodium Azide may cause skin, eye, and respiratory irritation. Repeated exposure may lead to the compromising of organs such as the kidneys, liver, heart spleen, and the Central Nervous System

Pictogram:

Hazards: Toxic, carcinogenic, environmental

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**Routes of Entry**

Inhalation, ingestion, skin/eye contact

**If any part of your body comes in contact with Sodium Azide, call the Amherst College Emergency phone number 413-542-2111. Also call this number if you begin to feel ill after working with (or in the vicinity of) Sodium Azide**

Eye contact

Use eyewash to flush eyes with water for at least 15 minutes. Do not use ointment

Skin Contact

Wash skin with plenty of water. Use safety shower, if needed

Ingestion

Do not induce vomiting

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**Storage and Special Handling**

Store in a tightly closed container in a cool, dry area that is well ventilated; preferably not on a shelf. Store in a secondary container with a lid

Label container with the following: "Acutely Toxic"

Store away from oxidizers and acids

If you have Sodium Azide (solid or in solution) that you no longer need, please contact Jason Williams for disposal

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*Special Handling*

Thoroughly wash hands with soap and water before leaving the lab

Do not handle cell phones or other devices while working with this product

Do not touch skin while/after using this product unless hands have been thoroughly washed

Limit the touching of surfaces, clothing, body, personal items, door handles, lab materials while using this product

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**Spill clean up**

Please do not attempt to clean up a Sodium Azide spill as this is an acutely toxic compound

If a spill occurs:

Alert everyone in the area

Leave the room

Close the door behind you

Contact Jason Williams (x2736) or call the emergency phone number, x2111 to report any spills of this compound

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**Disposal**

Sodium Azide should never be bulked with other chemicals. Dispose of it by itself unless it's already mixed in with other chemicals

Disposable pipets, pipet tips, and any other disposal devices that come in contact with Sodium Azide must be disposed of as hazardous waste (in its own container as it is p-coded waste)

**Empty containers of Sodium Azide must be diposed of as hazardous waste (p-coded waste)**

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Contact Jason Williams if you have any questions about this SOP or this compound.

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