Dolomite ($CaMg(CO^3)^2$)

This document provides a brief description of dolomite, its uses, and the potential hazards associated with short and long term exposure. Environmental impact information for accidental releases is included. This information is general in nature and is not intended as a replacement for the safety data sheet (SDS), product label and other safe handling literature. For additional information consult the LANXESS safety data sheet.

Identification

Product Name:	Dolomite ($CaMg(CO^3)^2$)
Chemical Name:	Calcium magnesium carbonate
Synonym(s):	Calcium magnesium carbonate Dolomite
CAS Number:	16389-88-1

Description

Overview:	Dolomite is a white, odorless solid at ambient temperatures and is sold in powder form.	
Uses:	Dolomite is sold by LANXESS for use as a process (pH) regulator and as a mineral additive for leather tanning agents.	
Properties:	**Decomposition:**	170.6°F (77°C)
	Solubility in Water:	Slight

Potential Human Health Effects

Occupational Exposure

Potential for occupational exposure exists during transfers to storage or staging areas and in operations where the compound is used as an additive in the manufacture of other products. A much lower potential for exposure exists in facilities using dolomite in closed manufacturing processes by trained personnel.

Employee Training

Workers handling dolomite should be trained to implement proper handling procedures and to understand the potential health and physical hazards of the chemical compound. A NIOSH approved air purifying particulate respirator is recommended where airborne concentrations of dolomite may exceed standards developed for respirable particles not otherwise regulated. In addition, LANXESS recommends that safety glasses be worn when handling dolomite.

Consumer Exposure

Dolomite is a common, naturally occurring form of limestone. The mineral, comprised of calcium and magnesium, is present in soils around the world and is used as an ingredient or additive in a variety of consumer products. LANXESS does not sell dolomite to the general public.

Short-Term Health Effects

Contact with dolomite dust may cause mild eye irritation. Ingestion of dolomite in sufficient quantities may be mildly irritating to the gastrointestinal tract. Inhalation of dolomite dust may cause respiratory tract irritation.

Long-Term Health Effects

Dolomite is not considered hazardous under the U.S. Federal OSHA Hazard Communication Standard 29 CFR 1910.1200. No adverse chronic health effects are expected.

Physical Hazards

Dolomite is stable under normal conditions of use. Concentrations of dust may be explosive. Avoid contact with acids, aluminum, ammonium salts, fluorine and magnesium. Heating dolomite to decomposition may release carbon dioxide and other toxic gases. Avoid heat, open flames and other potential sources of ignition.

Potential Environmental Impact

As a natural component of soil, dolomite is not expected to pose a risk to the environment. An accidental release to water in large quantities may increase alkalinity.

Conclusion

Under normal conditions of anticipated use as described in this Product Safety Assessment, and if the recommended safe use and handling procedures are followed, dolomite is not expected to pose a significant risk to human health or the environment.

References

Assessing Carbonates in the Field with Dilute Hydrochloric Acid (HCl) Solution, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Safety Data Sheet (SDS), BLANKOROL MR, LANXESS Corporation

MedlinePlus Medical Encyclopedia, U.S. National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health

ToxNet Hazardous Substance Data Bank (Calcium Compounds, Magnesium Compounds), U.S. National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Contact Information

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Notices

Use and Application Information