COMPACT FLUORESCENT SAFETY SPECIFICATION

Safety Data Sheet (SDS)

Compact Fluorescent Lamps – Spring Lamps, Floods, Globes, A-Bulbs, Torpedoes, Circline and PL Lamps

INFORMATION AND APPLICABILITY

Technical Consumer Products believes that under the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Hazards Communications Standard, a lamp (light bulb) is exempted as an “article”, and that as such, does not require an SDS. The original OSHA Standard defined an article as something that: 1) is formed to a specific shape and design, 2) has end use functions dependent upon its shape and design, and 3) does not release or otherwise result in an exposure to a hazardous chemical under normal conditions of use. In February 1994, OSHA amended the Hazard Communication Standard and modified part 3 of the above to read: 3) does not release more than very small quantities of a hazardous chemical under normal conditions of use. State and local regulations also contain similar exemptions for such articles.

There are no known health hazards from exposure to lamps that are intact. No adverse effects have been reported for exposure to intact compact fluorescent lamps. There have been no significant adverse effects on humans by ingestion, inhalation, skin contact, or eye contact. Antimony, manganese, yttrium and tin compounds are characterized by OSHA as hazardous chemicals, however, due to their insolubility, relatively low toxicity and small amount present in the phosphor and lamp, these materials do not present a significant hazard in the event of breakage of the lamp.

Mercury – Small amounts of mercury is used in all fluorescent lamps. Generally around 0.025% by weight. The amount of mercury present in any given lamp will vary depending on both the size of the lamp and on the equipment that was used in its manufacture. TCP continues to reduce the amounts of mercury used in fluorescent products.

Phosphor – (nuisance dust) phosphate mix using manganese, rare earth elements such as lanthanum, and yttrium as either an oxide or as a phosphate, along with a barium/aluminum oxide all are tightly bound in the phosphor matrix. These phosphors produce better lamp efficiency and color rendition. The phosphor components may vary slightly depending on the color of the lamp. Some lamps may contain a thin coating of tin oxide inside the glass.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

Not applicable to intact lamp.

EXPLOSION HAZARDS

When exposed to high temperature, toxic fumes may be released from broken lamps.

HEALTH CONCERNS

THERE ARE NO KNOWN HEALTH HAZARDS FROM EXPOSURE TO LAMPS THAT ARE INTACT. No adverse effects are expected from occasional exposure to broken lamps. As a matter of good practice, avoid prolonged or frequent exposure to broken lamps unless there is adequate ventilation. The major hazard form broken lamps is the possibility of sustaining glass cuts.

Mercury – The mercury in the air as a result of breaking one or a small number of fluorescent lamps should not result in significant exposures to an individual. However, when breaking a large number of lamps for disposal, appropriate industrial hygiene monitoring and controls should be implemented to minimize airborne levels or surface contamination. We recommend a well-ventilated area, and local exhaust ventilation or personal protective equipment.

Phosphor – There have been no significant adverse effects on humans by ingestion, inhalation, skin contact, or eye contact. Antimony, manganese, yttrium and tin compounds are characterized by OSHA as hazardous chemicals, however, due to their insolubility, relatively low toxicity and small amount present in the phosphor and lamp, these materials do not present a significant hazard in the event of breakage of the lamp.

Glass – Glass dust is considered to be physiologically inert and as such has an OSHA exposure limit of 15-mg/cubic meter for total dust and 5-mg/cubic meter for respirable dust. Perform normal first aid procedures. Seek medical attention as required.

Inhalation – If discomfort, irritation of symptoms of pulmonary involvement should develop, remove from exposure and seek medical attention.

Ingestion – In the unlikely event of ingestion of a large quantity of material, seek medical attention.

Contact Eye/Skin – Wash eyes/skin, including under eyelids, immediately with copious amounts of water and seek medical attention.

PROCEDURES FOR DISPOSAL OF LAMPS

Take usual precautions for collection of broken glass. Place materials in closed containers to avoid generating dust.

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