

GHS Safety Data Sheet Specialty Gaskets Inc.

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PRODUCT AND COMPANY IDENTIFICATION

Product Identifier:	High Silica Glass Fibers	
Revision Date:	July 2018	
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HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION

CLP rule is not applicable for the following products.

High Silica Glass Fibers are not **significantly hazardous**.

Details regarding chemical hazards are given in Section 3. Toxicological aspects are described in detail in Section 11. The essential point to remember is that glass filaments are not “respirable” as they are over 3 µm in diameter and have been shown not to cause lung cancer.

Hazard identified are:

- mechanical irritation (itching)
- the formation of respirable filaments
- extremely rare possibilities of allergy

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COMPOSITION/INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS

Glass yarns for textiles are basically sold as:

HIGH SILICA FBRE FELT (MAT)	HIGH SILICA FABRIC
HIGH SILICA FIBRE	HIGH SILICA NETTING (MESH)

These general names are followed by a code number of Specialty Gaskets Inc. product packaging.

This material safety data sheet is valid for all these products.

High Silica Glass Fibres can be considered as ARTICLES, as fibres are defined as articles in the manual of decisions for implementation of the sixth and seventh amendments to Directive 67/548/eec on dangerous substances (EU Directives 79/831/eec and 92/32/eec) or in the USA by the American TSCA (Toxic Substances Control Act) or EPA 40 CFR 710.2 and also some other national regulations (DSL in Canada for instance).

These articles are High Silica Glass Fibres in the form of continuous strands and a SIZE.

High silica glass composition after leaching process: SiO₂ content 95±1%, Al₂O₃ – 3.5 ± 0.5%

SIZE is a mixture of chemicals applied to the glass strands in a maximum quantity of 0.2% by weight.

This mixture is made up of basically natural polymers – starch and polyterphenes which are not listed as substances in the 1981 European Inventory of Existing Commercial Substances (EINECS) nor in the ELINCS appendices (European List of Notified Chemical Substances) and are generally exempt from registration on the American TSCA lists.

If so requested by medical authorities, the Chemical Abstract Service (CAS) reference numbers for the ingredients used for a given size or binder can be communicated but must remain for the confidential use of medical authorities.

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FIRST AID MEASURES

Inhalation: Remove from the scene of exposure to fresh air
Skin Contact: Wash copiously with lukewarm soapy water without rubbing excessively
Eye Contact: Flush in running water (for at least 10 minutes) and consult a doctor if necessary
Ingestion: N/A

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FIRE FIGHTING MEASURES

In case of fire, High Silica Glass Fibres are not flammable, are incombustible and don't support combustion.

Only the packaging (plastic film, paper, cardboard, wood) and the small amounts of size or binder are likely to burn. Combustion gases are basically carbon dioxide and water vapor. There may be small quantities of carbon monoxide and other unidentified substances, which make it necessary to use protective devices in the event of a major fire.

RECOMMENDED EXTINGUISHING MEDIA: water or chemical powder.

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ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES

PERSONAL PROTECTION: See Section 8.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION: In leaching tests High Silica Glass Fibre wastes did not emit any significant quantities of dangerous products and they can therefore be considered as **Inert Industrial Wastes**, or even **Common Industrial Wastes**, as defined by national and local regulations. All waste and

scrap materials should be disposed of in accordance with applicable national, federal, state and local regulations (see Section 13).

CLEANING: Vacuum clean, sweep or shovel into containers normally used for glass fibre waste (selective collection).

7	HANDLING AND STORAGE
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HANDLING (Technical measures / Precautions / Safe handling advice)

It is preferable to avoid prolonged contact with the skin: wear gloves, garments with sleeves and long leggings or protective overalls, goggles and dust masks. Glass filaments and dusts must be removed from work garments with a vacuum cleaner and not blown off with compressed air jets. Wash work garments separately from other clothes.

STORAGE

Technical measures: respect the stacking procedure recommended for each type of product.
 Storage conditions: store away from excessive humidity to prevent damage to the product and to the packing materials, which could lead to storage safety problems.
 Incompatible material: not relevant.

8	EXPOSURE CONTROLS/PERSONAL PROTECTION
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TECHNICAL MEASURES

Use every appropriate means (suction, modification of manufacturing methods to reduce fibre dust) to try to reduce the concentration of fibres likely to cause irritation.

TEST PARAMETERS

Test ambient atmospheres in which glass fibre is used regularly to determine levels of

- “non-respirable” and “respirable” filaments
- “non-respirable” and “respirable” dusts.

Legal requirements for respirable and non-respirable dusts and fibres vary from country to country (or do not even exist). The table below (prepared using the knowledge we currently possess) shows the limits applicable in different countries for Time-Weighted Average (TWA) exposure.

It is recommended to identify the chemical nature of the fibres found in working atmospheres correctly, in particular in insulation wools and mineral fibres like asbestos, which are sometimes present and can be confused with continuous glass strands.

Country	Dusts	TWA* (mg/m ³ for 8 hrs work)	Fibers	TWA* (Fibers/ml for 8 hrs work)
Austria	Fine	6	Total	0.5
Belgium	Total	10	No Regulation	
Denmark	Respirable	5	Total	1
	Total	10		
Finland	Total	10	Total	1
France	Total	10	Respirable	1

Germany	Respirable	3	Respirable	0.25
Great Britain	Respirable	5	Respirable	2
	Total	10		
The Netherlands	Respirable	2	Total	1
	Total	10		
Ireland	Respirable	5	Respirable	2
Italy	Respirable	3	Total	1
	Total	10		
Norway	Respirable	5	Total	1
	Total	10		
Portugal	Total	4	Total	1
Spain	Total	10	Total	1
Sweden	Respirable	5	Total	1
	Total	10		
Switzerland	Total	6	Respirable	0.5
USA	Respirable	5 (OSHA)**	Total	1 (ACGIH)***
	Total	15 (OSHA)**		

* TWA = Time-Weighed Average concentration

** OSHA = Occupational Safety and Health Administration

*** ACGIH = American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists

PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT

Respiratory protection: During occasional operations releasing high quantities of dust, wear minimum FP1 or preferably FP2 EEC approved dust masks. Type 3M 8710 or 3M 9900 respirators approved according to American National Institute For Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) directives can be used, for example.

Protection of hands and other exposed parts of the body: Gloves for the hands, long-sleeved garments and long leggings to prevent irritation. People with delicate skin should apply barrier cream to exposed skin areas.

Eye protection: safety goggles (or masks) or safety glasses.

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PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

Appearance: Solid. Continuous, chopped, or mats of fiber made up of continuous, parallel filaments glued together. White or yellowish white.

Odor: None	pH: N/A
Melting/Freezing Point: 1700°C	Explosive Properties: None
Flash Point: None	Relative Density: 2.6 g/cm ³
Decomposition Temperature: Only size products start to decompose at 200°C	Softening Point: Littleton point (defined as the temperature for which the viscosity of glass is 10 ^{7.65} Poises) is approximately 1250°C
Solubility: Very low solubility in water. Sizes can be partially (and even totally) dissolved in most organic solvents	

STABILITY

Stable in normal use and storage conditions, and in normally foreseeable usage conditions.

HAZARDOUS REACTIONS

No chemical hazardous reaction is foreseeable.

HAZARDOUS DECOMPOSITION PRODUCTS

In continuous combustion conditions, in addition to water vapour and CO₂, small quantities of CO and NO_x may be released from the combustion of the size. Other products may be released in limited quantities, depending on combustion conditions. This is why it is recommended to use high-temperature gas masks, when fighting intense fires (see Section 5).

ACUTE TOXICITY: not relevant

LOCALISED EFFECTS: possible temporary irritations

This irritation is of a purely mechanical and temporary nature. It disappears when exposure is ended. It can affect the skin, the eyes and the upper respiratory tracts. In Europe, mechanical irritation is not considered to be a health hazard within the terms of European directives 67/548/EEC for hazardous products. This is confirmed by the fact that EC Directive 97/69/EC for mineral fibres does not stipulate the need to use an Xi (irritant) label nor a classification for continuous strand fibres (which in this Directive only apply to insulation glass wools in some circumstances).

SENSITISATION: some allergies to continuous strand glass fibres have been declared.

All sizing mixtures are tested for their wet state sensitizing properties when developed by manufacturer and are only adopted if they have no or a very low sensitization level. In case of the allergy is confirmed, remove the person from the scene of the exposure.

LONG TERM TOXICITY: CARCINOGENIC RISKS

Continuous strand glass fibres are not respirable (i.e. do not penetrate the lung alveoli). This is because fibres are over 3 µm in diameter. Even after handling, the length of the finest dusts is also well over 5 µm and the length/diameter ratio is greater than 3:1. These are the values determined by the World Health Organization (WHO) for the definition of respirable fibres.

Regulatory Situation

None of the following official organizations have attributed any risks of cancer during the production and use of continuous filament glass fibres:

During its congress in June 1987, World Health Organization (WHO) through the IARC (International Agency of Research on Cancer) examined all laboratory studies using animals and epidemiological

studies carried out on glass yarns for textiles. The conclusion was that **glass filaments are not classified as to their carcinogenicity**. They belong to the **Group 3 of IARC**. This classification has been confirmed by the IARC Working Group during his meeting of October 2001 and in the latest issue of the IARC monographs on the evaluation of carcinogenic risks to humans, volume 81 on “Man-made vitreous fibres”, published in 2002.

The International Labour Office (ILO) and the CSIP (Chemical Safety International Program) came to the same conclusions on a congress held in 1987.

European Commission Directive 97/69/EC dated 5/12/97, the 23rd amendment to Directive 67/548/EEC which concerns classification, packing and labelling of hazardous substances did not think it necessary to include glass fibres as having carcinogenic risks. Most European Union member nations have transposed this Directive into their national law and adopted the same conclusions:

COUNTRY	REFERENCE OF TRANSPOSITION DOCUMENTS OF DIRECTIVE 97/98/EC
Austria	Chemikalienverordnung 1999
Belgium	French implementation by “Koninklijk Besluit” of 15/1/99 published on 24/2/99
Denmark	BEK N°11/1999.01.09 (Ministry of Environment)
Finland	Landskapforordning 23/04/98 and 24/02/98 and List of Hazardous Chemicals 16.12.98
France	Arrêté ministerial du 28/08/98, Circulaire DRT 99/10 du 13/8/99
Germany	4 th adaptation of the German Gefahrstoffverordnung 1999
Great Britain	The chemicals (Hazard Information and packaging for supply) (amendment) Regulations 1998. 6/1/99
Greece	Not available
Netherlands	Wijzigingsbesluit (Stb. 217,2001)
Ireland	Statuary Instruments S.I. N°513 of 1998 European Communities (Classification, Packaging, Labelling and Notification of Dangerous Substances) Amendment N°2 Regulation 1998. Effect on December 22 nd 1998.
Italy	Decreto ministeriale del 01/09/98, Gazzetta Ufficiale-Serie generale del 19/11/98 n271 pag. 16, decreto del 2 fe 2000, circolare n°4 del 15/03/1999
Luxembourg	Règlement Grand Ducal du 31/10/98
Portugal	Not available
Spain	Bulletin Oficial del Estada (11/09/98)
Sweden	KIFS 1998:7

OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) and NTP (U.S. National Toxicology Program), official American organizations, have not listed glass yarns for textiles as hazardous substances and the ACGIH (American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists) has classified them as A4 (not classified as carcinogenic for Man). They are not concerned by the Canadian Controlled Products regulations (CPR).

No new studies have led the organizations to revise their position on this subject. Most laws and studies concerning respirable fibres do not apply to continuous filaments glass yarns for textiles.

For example:

- the concentration of respirable fibres on the atmosphere (1.5 fibres/cm^3) fixed by French circular 95/04 dated 12/01/1995 (in addition to that dated 19/07/1982) from the French Ministry for Work does not apply to glass yarns.
- cancer risk index KI defined in German TRGS 905 does not apply to non-respirable continuous filament glass fibres.

Epidemiological and Laboratory Studies

No epidemiological and laboratory studies carried out up until now demonstrate in a scientifically significant way any risk of cancer related to reinforcement fibres.

Several recent epidemiological studies (Chiazze 1997, Boffeta 1997) confirmed the absence of excessive mortality due to cancer in people working in glass fibre manufacturing facilities vs. control populations.

A recent study published in 2000 by the IOM (Institute of Occupational Medicine in Edinburgh) addressed the inhalation of glass microfibers by animals at concentrations at least 1000 times higher than those encountered when using glass fibres demonstrated carcinogenic risk. These microfibers are not part of the product range produced and sold by Specialty Gaskets Inc. and these findings are not likely to change current opinions for the glass yarns described in this MSDS.

Handling Glass Fibres

When glass fibres are chopped, milled or sanded they are cut perpendicular to strand length and no smaller diameters filaments are generated. Conversely, significant quantities of dust can be generated, which is why it is recommended to use personal protection.

In dusts, also present in some products (chopped strands, milled fibres), some studies have shown very low quantities of particles with fibrous aspects ($l/d > 3$), short (but nevertheless longer than $5 \mu\text{m}$) and with an apparent diameter of under $3 \mu\text{m}$. Quantities measured in work atmospheres are 50 to 100 times lower than all the limits fixed for respirable fibres, but when there is a high risk of dust generation it is strongly recommended to wear masks.

MUTAGENIC RISKS, TERATOGENIC RISKS, RISKS FOR REPRODUCTION: continuous strand glass yarns have no known risks

High Silica Glass is not biodegradable. Sizes or binders are organic materials slowly and only partial dissolved by natural agents like water. As the concentration of the ingredients in the mixture and ingredient solubility are low and as they have not been classified as hazardous, glass yarns are considered to have no adverse eco-toxicological effects.

Glass fibres and sizing products **were not listed as products** likely to destroy the **ozone layer** by the 1987 Montreal Protocol (Class 1 or Class 2). These lists are included in EC Regulation n°3093/94 and in section VI of amendments to the "Clean Air Act" by the American Environmental Agency (EPA).

Glass fibre sizes **do not contain PCB** (Polychlorinated biphenyl) or/and other polyaromatic products of the same type.

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DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS

Depending on local regulations, glass fibre wastes can either be considered as **inert waste** or as **common industrial waste**. As such they can be buried in landfills approved for these categories.

High Silica Glass Fibre waste cannot be destroyed by incineration and can damage incinerators by the formation of a vitrified mass.

Clean cardboard, wood, plastic (film or bags) and packaging can be eliminated in units specific to these products (i.e. for recycling or use as fuels).

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TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS: High Silica Glass Fibres are not considered as hazardous goods by transport regulations. They are part of one of the hazardous classes listed in international regulations.

They do not need special procedures under any regulations. For international transport in Europe by land (new restructured version of ADR applicable as from July 1st 2001, RID, ADNR), sea (OMI) or air (OAC/IATA), or to the USA (DOT) or Canada (TDG), they are not shown as a risk category nor qualified by a UNO number or a packing group.

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REGULATORY INFORMATION

High Silica Glass Fibres do not require hazardous product labelling (see Section 11).

General hygiene and work safety regulations apply (see Section 8).

High Silica Glass Fibres are articles and for this reason they have not to be listed in most of the countries, for instance in the list EINECS in Europe, ELINCS, TSCA for the USA, DSL and NDSL for Canada.

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OTHER INFORMATION

N/A

Disclaimer:

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