

Health and Safety Information

BS EN 450 Fly Ash



bringing materials to *life*

1. IDENTIFICATION OF THE SUBSTANCE/PREPARATION AND OF THE COMPANY/ UNDERTAKING

1.1 Identification of the substance/preparation

An odourless grey powder mainly insoluble in water. This datasheet applies to the following products:

- Fly Ash S
- Fly Ash N

1.2 Use of the substance/preparation

Used mainly as an addition to Portland cements.

1.3 Company identification

Lafarge Cement United Kingdom
Portland House
Bickenhill Lane
Birmingham B37 7BQ

Technical helpline: 0845 812 6232

Email: info@lafargecement.co.uk

1.4 Emergency telephone

Emergency telephone number available during office hours: Tel 0845 812 6232

Emergency telephone number available outside office hours: No

2. HAZARD IDENTIFICATION

2.1 Hazard characterisation

There is no known significant content of hazardous substances other than those risks that apply to any non-toxic dust. Fly Ash is not considered to be especially hazardous, but should be handled in accordance with good occupational hygiene and safety practices.

2.2 Primary route(s) of entry

Inhalation: Yes

Skin - eyes: Yes

Ingestion: No, except in accidental cases

2.3 Human health

Inhalation: There is no clinical evidence of a significant risk of harm to the respiratory tract or lungs.

Eyes: If dust remains in contact with the eye then irritation will occur.

Skin: Current information suggests that there is no epidemiological evidence of a significant health risk associated with fly ash. However, when moist it is alkaline and prolonged or repeated contact can cause abrasion and irritant dermatitis. For more details see Reference (1).

Ingestion: Unlikely to be a problem, no known adverse health effects on gastrointestinal system.

3. COMPOSITION/INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS

3.1 Chemical composition

Fly ash is the by-product produced primarily from the combustion of pulverised coal in electricity generation power station boilers. The principal constituent of fly ash is a vitrified mixture of silicates and aluminates with small quantities of ferro-silicates, ferro-aluminates, alkalis, calcium oxide, magnesium oxide, sulfates and chlorides.

4. FIRST AID MEASURES

When contacting a physician, take this safety datasheet with you.

4.1 After significant accidental inhalation

Move person to fresh air. Dust in throat and nasal passages should clear spontaneously. Contact a physician if irritation persists or later develops or if discomfort, coughing or other symptoms do not subside.

4.2 After contact with eyes

Do not rub eyes, as additional cornea damage is possible by mechanical stress. Remove any contact lenses and open the

eyelid(s) widely to flush eye(s) immediately by thoroughly rinsing with plenty of clean water for at least 45 minutes to remove all particles. If possible, use isotonic water (0.9% NaCl). Contact a specialist of occupational medicine or an eye specialist.

4.3 After skin contact

For dry fly ash, remove and rinse abundantly with water. Remove contaminated clothing, footwear, watches, etc, and clean thoroughly before re-using them. Seek medical treatment in all cases of irritation or burns.

4.4 After significant accidental ingestion

Do not induce vomiting. If person is conscious, wash out mouth with water and give plenty of water to drink. Get immediate medical attention or contact anti poison centre.

5. FIRE-FIGHTING MEASURES

5.1 Flashpoint and method

Fly ash is non-combustible and non-explosive and will not facilitate nor support combustion of other materials.

5.2 Extinguishing media

All types of extinguishing media are suitable.

5.3 Fire fighting equipment

Fly ash poses no fire-related hazards. No need for specialist protective equipment for fire fighters.

5.4 Combustion products

None.

5.5 Flammable limits: Lower explosion limit LEL – Upper explosion limit UEL

Not applicable.

6. ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES

6.1 Personal protective measures

Wear protective equipment as described under Heading 8 and follow the advice for safe handling and use given under Heading 7. Emergency procedures are not required.

6.2 Environment protection measures

Do not wash fly ash down sewage and drainage systems or into bodies of water (eg, streams).

6.3 Methods for cleaning up

Recover the spillage in a dry state if possible.

Dry fly ash: Use dry cleanup methods that do not cause airborne dispersion - eg:

- Vacuum cleaner (Industrial portable units, equipped with high efficiency particulate filters (HEPA filter) or equivalent technique).
- Wipe up the dust by mopping, wet brushing or water sprays or hoses (fine mist to avoid the dust becoming airborne) and remove slurry. If not possible, remove by slurring with water (see Wet fly ash).

When wet cleaning or vacuum cleaning is not possible and only dry cleaning with brushes can be done, ensure that the workers wear appropriate personal protective equipment and prevent dust from spreading.

Avoid inhalation of fly ash and contact with skin. Place spilled materials into a container before disposal as described under Heading 13.

Wet fly ash: Clean up wet fly ash and place in a container before disposal as described under Heading 13.

7. HANDLING AND STORAGE

Do not handle or store near food and beverages or smoking materials.

7.1 Handling

Avoid creating airborne dust wherever possible. Where dust is generated then engineering control measures should be considered to minimise airborne dust concentration.

7.2 Storage

Bulk fly ash should be stored in silos that are waterproof, dry (internal condensation minimised), clean and protected from contamination.

Engulfment hazard: To prevent burial or suffocation, do not enter a confined space, such as a silo, bin, bulk truck, or other storage container or vessel that stores or contains fly ash without taking the proper security measures. Fly ash can build up or adhere to the walls of a confined space. The fly ash can release, collapse or fall unexpectedly.

8. EXPOSURE CONTROLS/PERSONAL PROTECTION

8.1 Exposure limit values (Workplace Exposure Limits (WEL))

WEL 8hr Time Weighted Average (TWA):

- Total inhalable dust 10mg/m³

- Respirable dust 4mg/m³

These figures are considered to be safe in view of the low percentage of crystalline silica present in the respirable fraction.

8.2 Exposure controls

8.2.1 Occupational exposure controls

General: Avoid creating airborne dust wherever possible. Where dust is generated then engineering control measures should be considered to minimise airborne dust concentration.

Immediately after working with fly ash or fly ash containing materials, workers should wash or shower or use skin moisturisers. Remove contaminated clothing, footwear, watches, etc, and clean thoroughly before re-using them.

Respiratory protection: When a person is exposed to dust above exposure limits, use appropriate respiratory protection. It should be adapted to the dust level and conform to the relevant EN standard. Suitable respiratory protection should be worn to ensure that personal exposure is less than the WEL.

Eye protection: Wear approved glasses or safety goggles according to EN 166 when handling dry or wet fly ash to prevent contact with eyes.

Skin protection: Use impervious, abrasion and alkali resistant gloves (made of low soluble Cr (VI) containing material), internally lined with cotton, boots, closed long-sleeved protective clothing and additionally skin care products (including barrier creams) to protect the skin from prolonged contact with wet fly ash.

8.2.2 Environmental exposure controls

According to available technology.

9. PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

9.1 General information

Dry fly ash is a finely ground inorganic material (odourless, grey powder)

9.2 Physical data

Mean particle size: 5-50 µm

Solubility in water (T = 20 °C): <2%

Density: 1.8-2.4 g/cm³

Apparent density (ES): 1.2-1.7 g/cm³

pH (T = 20°C in water): 9-12

Vapour pressure, vapour density, evaporation rate, freezing point, viscosity: Not relevant

10. STABILITY AND REACTIVITY

10.1 Stability

Dry fly ash is stable as long as they are stored properly (see Heading 7) and compatible with most other building materials.

10.2 Hazardous decomposition products

Fly ash will not decompose into other hazardous by-products and does not polymerise.

11. TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION

11.1 Acute effects

Eye contact: Direct contact with fly ash may cause corneal damage by mechanical stress, immediate or delayed irritation or inflammation. Direct contact by larger amounts of fly ash may cause effects ranging from moderate eye irritation (eg, conjunctivitis or blepharitis) to ulceration.

Skin contact: Fly ash might cause irritant contact dermatitis in susceptible individuals.

Acute dermal toxicity: Limit test, rabbit, 24 hours contact, 2 000 mg/kg body weight – no lethality [Reference (2)].

Ingestion: Swallowing large quantities may cause irritation to the gastrointestinal tract.

Inhalation: The inhalation of small amounts of fly ash is unlikely to cause any significant reaction. Coughing, sneezing, and shortness of breath may occur following exposures in excess of occupational exposure limits.

11.2 Chronic effects

Extensive testing has shown fly ash to be non-toxic.

Carcinogenicity: A causal association between fly ash exposure and cancer has not been established [Reference (1)].

11.3 Medical conditions aggravated by exposure

Inhaling fly ash dust may aggravate existing respiratory system disease(s) and/or medical conditions such as emphysema or asthma and/or existing skin and/or eye conditions.

12. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

12.1 Ecotoxicity

The product is not expected to be hazardous to the environment (LC50 aquatic toxicity not determined). The addition of large amounts of fly ash to water may, however, cause a rise in pH and may therefore be toxic to aquatic life under certain circumstances.

12.2 Mobility

Dry fly ash is not volatile but might become airborne during handling operations.

12.3 Persistence and degradability/Bioaccumulative potential/Results of PBT assessment/Other adverse effects

Not relevant as fly ash is an inorganic material.

13. DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS

13.1 Product - fly ash that has exceeded its shelf life

Disposal should be in accordance with current local and national legislation. Dispose of surplus product in a place authorised to accept builders' waste (non-hazardous materials landfill).

Keep out of the reach of children.

13.2 Product - unused residue or dry spillage

Pick up dry. Mark the containers. Possibly reuse depending upon shelf life considerations and the requirement to avoid dust exposure.

13.3 Product - slurries

Avoid entry in sewage and drainage systems or into bodies of water (eg, streams) and dispose of as indicated in 13.4.

13.4 Product - after addition of water

Dispose of according to the local legislation. Avoid entry into the sewage water system. Not classified as hazardous for transport.

14. TRANSPORT INFORMATION

Fly ash is not covered by the international regulation on the transport of dangerous goods (IMDG, IATA, ADR/RID) and therefore no classification is required.

No special precautions are needed apart from those mentioned under Heading 8.

15. REGULATORY INFORMATION

15.1 Classification and labelling of fly ash according to 1999/45/EC

Risk phrases

R37/38 Irritating to respiratory system and skin

R41 Risk of serious damage to eyes

R43 May cause sensitisation by skin contact

Safety phrases

S2 Keep out of reach of children

S22 Do not breathe dust

S24/25 Avoid contact with skin and eyes

S26 In case of contact with eyes, rinse immediately with plenty of water and seek medical advice

S36/37/39 Wear suitable protective clothing, gloves and eye/face protection

15.2 National legislation/requirements

CONIAC Health Hazard Information Sheet No. 26 (CEMENT)

Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (Regulations)

HSE Guidance Notes EH26 (Occupational Skin Diseases – Health and Safety Precautions)

HSE Guidance Note EH40 (Workplace Exposure Limits)

Any authorised manual on First Aid by St. John's/St. Andrew's/Red Cross

Manual Handling Operations Regulations

Environmental Protection Act

16. OTHER INFORMATION

Abbreviations

- IMDG: International Maritime Dangerous Goods
- IATA: International Air Transport Association
- ADR/RID: Agreement on the transport of dangerous goods by road/Regulations on the international transport of dangerous goods by rail
- LC50 Lethal Concentration where 50% of the test animals dies.
- OEL : Occupational Exposure Limit
- TWA: Time Weighted Averages

References

(1) Portland Cement Dust - Hazard assessment document EH75/7, UK Health and Safety Executive, 2006. Available from:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/web/portlandCement.pdf>

(2) Observations on the effects of skin irritation caused by cement, Kietzman et al, *Dermatosen*, **47**, 5, 184-189 (1999).

(3) European Commission's Scientific Committee on Toxicology, Ecotoxicology and the Environment (SCTEE) opinion of the risks to health from Cr (VI) in cement (European Commission, 2002).

(4) Epidemiological assessment of the occurrence of allergic dermatitis in workers in the construction industry related to the content of Cr (VI) in Cement, NIOH, Page 11, 2003.

The information on this datasheet reflects the currently available knowledge and is reliable provided that the product is used under the prescribed conditions and in accordance with the application specified on the packaging and/or in the technical guidance literature. Any other use of the product, including the use of the product in combination with any other product or any other process, is the responsibility of the user. It is implicit that the user is responsible for determining appropriate safety measures and for applying the legislation covering his own activities.

The information in this datasheet is accurate at the time of printing, but Lafarge Cement UK reserve the right to amend details as part of their product development programme.

For further information

Technical helpline

Tel: 0845 812 6232

E-mail: info@lafargecement.co.uk

Customer services

Tel: 0845 812 6300

E-mail: customerservice@lafargecement.co.uk

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LAFARGE CEMENT UK

Portland House
Bickenhill Lane

Solihull, Birmingham
B37 7BQ

Tel. 0845 812 6400

Fax 0845 812 6200

www.lafargecement.co.uk

