

DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES

For Small & Medium Enterprises;

QUICK GUIDE ON AMMONIA

Introduction

Ammonia (NH₃) is a compound of nitrogen and hydrogen. It is a colourless gas with a characteristic of strong pungent smell.

Who is Affected

Ammonia is commonly found in the :

- · ice making facilities
- detergent
- fertilizer



Hazard Statement

Flammable gas | Contain gas under pressure; may explode if heated | Toxic if inhaled | Causes severe skin burns and eye damage | Causes serious eye damage | Very toxic to aquatic life

Ammonia Properties

Property	DESCRIPTION
CAS No.	7664-41-7
Chemical Formula	NH3
Color	Colorless
Molar Mass	17.031 g/mol
Phase	Gas
Density (STP)	0.769 kg/m ³
Melting Point	−77.73 °C
Boiling Point	-33.34 °C
Vapor Pressure	857.3 kPa
Water Solubility	31% w/w (25°C)
Odour	Strong Pungent

Use Of Ammonia

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Cleaning Agent



Refrigerant Gas





Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health, IDLH *

Ammonia = 300 ppm

* Based on NIOSH CDC

Permissible Exposure Limit, PEL**

Ammonia = 25 ppm

** Based on USECHH Regulations 2000

Health Effects

	ROE	Symptom	First Aid
	Inha- lation	- Burning sensation - Cough - Shortness of breath - Sore throat	 Fresh air, rest Half –upright position. Administration of oxygen may be needed Refer immediately for medical attention.
	Skin	- Redness - Pain - Blister - Skin burns -On contact with liquid : Frostbite	 Rinse skin with plenty of water or shower for at least 15 minutes. On frostbite: rinse with plenty of water, do not remove clothes. Refer immediately for medical attention.
	Eye	- Redness - Pain - Blister - Skin burns -On contact with liquid: Frostbite	- Rinse with plenty of water for several minutes (remove contact lenses if easily possible) - Refer immediately for medical attention.

Fertilizer



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AMMONIA LEAK—HOW TO HANDLE

When ammonia leaks:

- · safety alarm will be triggered or
- · the pungent odour can be smelled.







In an Emergency: 999

1 Do not panic.

Put on a suitable respirator

Leave the room / area immediately.

Call BOMBA to do decontamination and cleaning

NEVER







Smoking

Try to find and close the source of leak.

Walk around contaminated area

Personal Protective Equipment



Ammonia vapour cartridge



Material (Nitrile Rubber)



Material (Rubber wellington Boots)



Goggles

Safety Precaution for Ammonia

- ⇒ Never work alone with this chemical
- ⇒ Unprotected persons should avoid all contact with this chemical, including contaminated equipment
- ⇒ Do not use with incompatible materials such as oxidizing agents (e.g., nitrogen oxide), halogens (e.g., chlorine, fluorine) and heavy metals (e.g., mercury, silver)
- ⇒ Never perform any welding, cutting, soldering, drilling or other hot work on an empty vessel, container or piping until all the ammonia has been cleared
- ⇒ Follow handling precautions in Safety Data Sheet
- ⇒ Activate Emergency Response Plan (if any)
- ⇒ Ensure suitable emergency equipment for fires, spills and leaks readily available

