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## POTASSIUM NITRATE

### 1. Product Identification

Synonyms: Saltpeter; niter; Nitric acid, potassium salt

CAS No.: 7757-79-1

Molecular Weight: 101.1

Chemical Formula: KNO<sub>3</sub>

### 2. Composition/Information on Ingredients

Ingredient	CAS No	Percent	Hazardous
Potassium Nitrate	7757-79-1	99 - 100%	Yes

### 3. Hazards Identification

#### Emergency Overview

DANGER! STRONG OXIDIZER. CONTACT WITH OTHER MATERIAL MAY CAUSE FIRE. HARMFUL IF SWALLOWED, INHALED OR ABSORBED THROUGH SKIN. CAUSES IRRITATION TO SKIN, EYES AND RESPIRATORY TRACT.

#### Potential Health Effects

**Inhalation:** Causes irritation to the respiratory tract. Symptoms may include coughing, shortness of breath.

**Ingestion:** Causes irritation to the gastrointestinal tract. Symptoms may include nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. May cause gastroenteritis and abdominal pains. Purging and diuresis can be expected. Rare cases of nitrates being converted to the more toxic nitrites have been reported, mostly with infants.

**Aggravation of Pre-existing Conditions:** No information found.

#### 4. First Aid Measures

**Skin Contact:** Immediately flush skin with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes while removing contaminated clothing and shoes. Get medical attention. Wash clothing before reuse. Thoroughly clean shoes before reuse.

**Eye Contact:** Immediately flush eyes with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes, lifting lower and upper eyelids occasionally. Get medical attention immediately.

#### 5. Fire Fighting Measures

**Fire:** Not combustible, but substance is a strong oxidizer and its heat of reaction with reducing agents or combustibles may cause ignition.

**Explosion:** Some nitrates may explode when shocked, exposed to heat or flame, or by spontaneous chemical reaction. Sealed containers may rupture when heated. Sensitive to mechanical impact.

**Fire Extinguishing Media:** Dry chemical, carbon dioxide, Halon, water spray, or fog. If water is used, apply from as far a distance as possible. Water spray may be used to keep fire exposed containers cool. Do not allow water runoff to enter sewers or waterways.

**Special Information:** Wear full protective clothing and breathing equipment for high-intensity fire or potential explosion conditions. This oxidizing material can increase the flammability of adjacent combustible materials.

## **6. Accidental Release Measures**

Remove all sources of ignition. Ventilate area of leak or spill. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment as specified in Section 8. Spills: Clean up spills in a manner that does not disperse dust into the air. Use non-sparking tools and equipment. Reduce airborne dust and prevent scattering by moistening with water. Pick up spill for recovery or disposal and place in a closed container.

## **7. Handling and Storage**

Keep in a tightly closed container, stored in a cool, dry, ventilated area. Protect against physical damage and moisture. Isolate from any source of heat or ignition. Avoid storage on wood floors. Separate from incompatibles, combustibles, organic or other readily oxidizable materials. Containers of this material may be hazardous when empty since they retain product residues (dust, solids); observe all warnings and precautions listed for the product.

## **8. Exposure Controls/Personal Protection**

Airborne Exposure Limits: None established.

**Ventilation System:** A system of local and/or general exhaust is recommended to keep employee exposures as low as possible. Local exhaust ventilation is generally preferred because it can control the emissions of the contaminant at its source, preventing dispersion of it into the general work area. Please refer to the ACGIH document, Industrial Ventilation, A Manual of Recommended Practices, most recent edition, for details.

**Personal Respirators (NIOSH Approved):** For conditions of use where exposure to dust or mist is apparent and engineering controls are not feasible, a particulate respirator (NIOSH type N95 or better filters) may be worn. If oil particles (e.g. lubricants, cutting fluids, glycerin, etc.) are present, use a NIOSH type R or P filter. For emergencies or instances where the exposure levels are not known, use a full-face positive-pressure, air-supplied respirator.

**WARNING:** Air-purifying respirators do not protect workers in oxygen-deficient atmospheres.

**Skin Protection:** Wear impervious protective clothing, including boots, gloves, lab coat, apron or coveralls, as appropriate, to prevent skin contact.

**Eye Protection:** Use chemical safety goggles and/or full face shield where dusting or splashing of solutions is possible. Maintain eye wash fountain and quick-drench facilities in work area.

## 9. Physical and Chemical Properties / Specification

<b>Appearance:</b>	White crystals.
<b>Molecular Weight:</b>	101.1
<b>Chemical Formula:</b>	KNO <sub>3</sub>
<b>Assay.</b>	98.00%
<b>K<sub>2</sub>O</b>	46.50% Min
<b>Nitrogen</b>	13.50% Min
<b>Solubility:</b>	36 gm/100 ml water
<b>Specific Gravity:</b>	2.1
<b>pH:</b>	7
<b>% Volatiles by volume @ 21C (70F):</b>	0
<b>Boiling Point:</b>	400C (752F)
<b>Melting Point:</b>	333C (631F)
<b>Vapor Density (Air=1):</b>	3.00
<b>Vapor Pressure (mm Hg):</b>	Negligible @ 20C

## 10. Stability and Reactivity

**Stability:** Stable under ordinary conditions of use and storage.

**Hazardous Decomposition Products:** Oxides of nitrogen and toxic metal fumes may form when heated to decomposition.

**Hazardous Polymerization:** Will not occur.

**Incompatibilities:** Heavy metals, phosphates, organic compounds, carbonaceous materials, strong acids, and many other substances.

**Conditions to Avoid:** Heat, flames, ignition sources and incompatibles.

## 11. Toxicological Information

Ingredient	Known	Anticipated	IARC Category
Potassium Nitrate (7757-79-1)	No	No	None

### 12. Ecological Information

Environmental Fate: No information found.  
 Environmental Toxicity: No information found.

### 13. Disposal Considerations

Whatever cannot be saved for recovery or recycling should be handled as hazardous waste and sent to a RCRA approved waste facility. Processing, use or contamination of this product may change the waste management options. State and local disposal regulations may differ from federal disposal regulations. Dispose of container and unused contents in accordance with federal, state and local requirements.

### 14. Transport Information

International (Water, I.M.O.)

Proper Shipping Name: POTASSIUM NITRATE  
 Hazard Class: 5.1  
 UN/NA: UN1486  
 Packing Group: III

### 15. Regulatory Information

Ingredient	TSCA	EC	Japan	Australia
Potassium Nitrate (7757-79-1)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

### 16. Other Information

#### Label Hazard Warning:

DANGER! STRONG OXIDIZER. CONTACT WITH OTHER MATERIAL MAY CAUSE FIRE. HARMFUL IF SWALLOWED, INHALED OR ABSORBED THROUGH SKIN. CAUSES IRRITATION TO SKIN, EYES AND RESPIRATORY TRACT.

#### Label Precautions:

Keep from contact with clothing and other combustible materials. Store in a tightly closed container. Do not store near combustible materials. Remove and wash contaminated clothing promptly. Avoid contact with eyes, skin and clothing. Avoid breathing dust.

Keep container closed. Use only with adequate ventilation. Wash thoroughly after handling.

#### Label First Aid:

If swallowed, induce vomiting immediately as directed by medical personnel. Never give anything by mouth to an unconscious person. If inhaled, remove to fresh air. If not breathing, give artificial respiration. If breathing is difficult, give oxygen. In case of contact, immediately flush eyes or skin with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes while removing contaminated clothing and shoes. Wash clothing before reuse. In all cases, get medical attention.

**Product Use:**

Laboratory Reagent.