

# ZINC METAL SAFETY DATA SHEET



## SECTION 1. IDENTIFICATION

**Product Identity:** Zinc Metal

**Trade Names and Synonyms:** High Grade Zinc; Special High Grade Zinc; Zinc, Zn, CGG Alloy <1% Aluminum.

**Manufacturer:**  
Teck Metals Ltd.  
Trail Operations  
Trail, British Columbia  
V1R 4L8  
Emergency Telephone: 250-364-4214

**Supplier:**  
In U.S.:  
Teck American Metal Sales Incorporated  
501 North Riverpoint Blvd, Suite 300  
Spokane, WA  
USA, 99202

**Preparer:**  
Teck Metals Ltd.  
Suite 3300 – 550 Burrard Street  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
V6C 0B3

Other than U.S.:  
Teck Metals Ltd.  
#1700 – 11 King Street West  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5H 4C7

**Date of Last Review:** June 15, 2023

**Date of Last Edit:** June 15, 2023

**Product Use:** Zinc metal is used to coat steel for corrosion protection (galvanizing, electroplating, electrogalvanizing), as an alloying element in bronze, brass, aluminum and other metal alloys, for zinc die casting alloys, for zinc dry cell and zinc/air batteries, for the production of zinc sheet for architectural and coinage applications, as a reducing agent in organic chemistry and for other chemical applications.

## SECTION 2. HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION

**CLASSIFICATION:**

*NOTE: In the form in which it is sold this product is not regulated as a Hazardous Product in the U.S. or Canada. This Safety Data Sheet is provided for information purposes only.*

Health	Physical	Environmental
Acute Toxicity (Oral, Inhalation) – Does not meet criteria	Does not meet criteria for any Physical Hazard	Aquatic Toxicity – (Short Term/Long Term) Does not meet any criteria
Skin Corrosion/Irritation – Does not meet criteria		
Eye Damage/Eye Irritation – Does not meet criteria		
Respiratory or Skin Sensitization – Does not meet criteria		
Mutagenicity – Does not meet criteria		
Carcinogenicity – Does not meet criteria		
Reproductive Toxicity – Does not meet criteria		
Specific Target Organ Toxicity:		
Acute Exposure – Does not meet criteria		
Chronic Exposure – Does not meet criteria		

**LABEL:**

<b>Symbols:</b> None required	<b>Signal Word:</b> None required
<u>Hazard Statements</u>	<u>Precautionary Statements:</u>
None required	None required

**Emergency Overview:** A lustrous bluish-silver metal that does not burn in bulk but may form explosive mixtures if dispersed in air as a fine powder. Zinc oxide fume is formed when zinc metal is heated to or near the boiling point or is burned. Contact with acids or alkalis generates flammable hydrogen gas which can accumulate in poorly ventilated areas. DO NOT use water or foam on burning zinc metal. Apply dry chemical, sand or special powder extinguishing media. Zinc is relatively non-toxic and poses little immediate hazard to the health of emergency response personnel or to the environment in an emergency situation.

**Potential Health Effects:** Zinc is essentially non-toxic to humans. However, zinc oxide fumes may cause mild local irritation to eyes, nose, throat and upper airways. Acute over-exposure to zinc oxide fume may cause metal fume fever, characterized by flu-like symptoms such as chills, fever, nausea, and vomiting which may not appear for 3 – 10 hours after exposure. In most cases, dermal exposure to zinc or zinc compounds does not result in any noticeable toxic effects. Zinc is not listed as a carcinogen by OSHA, NTP, IARC, ACGIH or the EU (see Toxicological Information, Section 11).

**Potential Environmental Effects:** Zinc metal has relatively low bioavailability and poses no immediate ecological risks. Depending on physico-chemical characteristics (e.g., pH, water hardness), compounds of zinc metal can be toxic, particularly in the aquatic environment. Zinc also has the potential to bioaccumulate in plants and animals in both aquatic and terrestrial environments (see Ecological Information, Section 12).

### SECTION 3. COMPOSITION / INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS

COMPONENTS	CAS Registry No.	CONCENTRATION (% wt./wt.)
Zinc	7440-66-6	99+%

Note: See Section 8 for Occupational Exposure Guidelines.

### SECTION 4. FIRST AID MEASURES

**Eye Contact:** *Symptoms:* Mild eye irritation, redness. Do not rub eye(s). Let the eye(s) water naturally for a few minutes. Look right and left, then up and down. If particle/dust does not come out, cautiously rinse eye(s) with lukewarm, gently flowing water for 5 minutes or until particle/dust is removed, while holding eyelid(s) open. If eye irritation persists, get medical advice/attention. DO NOT attempt to manually remove anything from the eye.

**Skin Contact:** *Symptoms:* Soiling of skin. No health effects expected. Wash with lukewarm, gently flowing water and a mild soap until the product is removed. If skin irritation occurs or you feel unwell, get medical advice/attention.

*Molten Metal:* Flush contact area to solidify and cool but do not attempt to remove encrusted material or clothing. Cover burns and seek medical attention immediately.

**Inhalation:** *Symptoms:* Coughing and irritation in heavy dust/fume clouds. If symptoms are experienced remove source of contamination or move victim from exposure area to fresh air immediately and obtain medical advice. NOTE: Metal fume fever may develop 3-10 hours after exposure to zinc oxide fumes. If symptoms of metal fume fever (flu-like symptoms) develop, obtain medical attention.

**Ingestion:** *Symptoms:* Stomach upset, nausea, diarrhea. If swallowed, no specific intervention is indicated as this material is not likely to be hazardous by ingestion. However, if you are concerned or you feel unwell, obtain medical advice.

### SECTION 5. FIRE FIGHTING MEASURES

**Fire and Explosion Hazards:** Massive metal is difficult to ignite and is not considered a fire hazard. However, finely-divided metallic dust may form flammable or explosive dust clouds when dispersed in the air at high concentrations and exposed to heat, flame, or other ignition sources. Bulk dust in a damp state may heat spontaneously and ignite on exposure to air. Contact with acids and alkali hydroxides results in evolution of hydrogen gas which is potentially explosive. Mixtures with potassium chlorate or fused ammonium nitrate may explode on impact.

**Extinguishing Media:** Apply dry chemical, dry sand, or special powder extinguishing (Class D) media. Water may be ineffective for extinguishing a fire but should be used to keep fire-exposed billets, ingots and castings cool. Do NOT use water, carbon dioxide or foam on molten metals.

**Fire Fighting:** If possible, move material not yet involved in the fire from the fire area. If this is not possible, cool fire-exposed zinc by applying hose streams or fogs. Take extreme caution to prevent water contact with molten or burning zinc. Zinc foil in particular may ignite in the presence of water. Apply only dry chemical, sand, or special powder extinguishing media to any molten or burning zinc metal. Zinc oxide fumes may evolve in fires. Fire fighters should be fully trained and wear full protective clothing including an approved, self-contained breathing apparatus which supplies a positive air pressure within a full face-piece mask.

### SECTION 6. ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES

**Procedures for Cleanup:** Control source of release if possible to do so safely. Clean up spilled material immediately observing precautions in Section 8, Personal Protection. Molten metal should be allowed to cool and harden before cleanup. Once solidified wear gloves, pick up and return to process. Powder or dust should be cleaned up by sweeping/shoveling, etc. Solid metal is recyclable. Return uncontaminated spilled material to the process if possible. Place contaminated material in clean, dry,

suitably labelled containers for later recovery or disposal. Treat or dispose of waste material in accordance with all local, state/provincial, and national requirements.

**Personal Precautions:** Protective clothing, gloves, and a respirator are recommended for persons responding to an accidental release (see also Section 8). Close-fitting safety goggles may be necessary in some circumstances to prevent eye contact with zinc dust and fume. Where molten metal is involved, wear heat-resistant gloves and suitable clothing for protection from hot-metal splash as well as suitable respiratory protective devices.

**Environmental Precautions:** Zinc metal has relatively low bioavailability and poses no immediate ecological risks. Depending on physico-chemical characteristics (e.g., pH, water hardness), compounds of zinc metal can be toxic, particularly in the aquatic environment. Zinc also has the potential to bioaccumulate in plants and animals in both aquatic and terrestrial environments. Releases of the product to water and soil should be prevented.

## SECTION 7. HANDLING AND STORAGE

**Precautions for Safe Handling:** Zinc ingots suspected of containing moisture should be THOROUGHLY DRIED before being added to a molten bath. Ingots may contain cavities that collect moisture. Entrained moisture will expand explosively when immersed in a molten bath and spatter molten metal out of the bath.

**Conditions for Safe Storage:** Store zinc in a DRY covered area, separate from incompatible materials. No special packaging materials are required.

## SECTION 8. EXPOSURE CONTROLS / PERSONAL PROTECTION

**Occupational Exposure Guidelines:** (*Time-Weighted Average (TWA) concentration over 8 hr unless otherwise indicated*)

<u>Component</u>	<u>ACGIH TLV</u>	<u>OSHA PEL</u>	<u>NIOSH REL</u>
Zinc	None established†	None established†	None established†

NOTE: OEGs for individual jurisdictions may differ from those given above. Check with local authorities for the applicable OEGs in your jurisdiction.

ACGIH - American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists; OSHA - Occupational Safety and Health Administration; NIOSH - National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. TLV – Threshold Limit Value, PEL – Permissible Exposure Limit, REL – Recommended Exposure Limit.

† NOTE: While there is no established OEL for zinc as such, there are OELs for zinc oxide which may be formed during burning, welding or other fuming processes.

The OSHA PEL final rule limits for zinc oxide dust are 10 mg/m<sup>3</sup> (total) and 5 mg/m<sup>3</sup> (respirable); the OSHA PEL final rule limit for zinc oxide fume is 5 mg/m<sup>3</sup>. Note that the OSHA PEL final rule limits are currently non-enforceable due to a court decision. The OSHA PEL transitional limits therefore remain in force at present. They are 15 mg/m<sup>3</sup> (total) and 5 mg/m<sup>3</sup> (respirable) while the transitional PEL for zinc oxide fume is 5 mg/m<sup>3</sup>. The ACGIH TLV for zinc oxide is 2 mg/m<sup>3</sup> (respirable fraction) with a Short Term Exposure Limit (STEL) of 10 mg/m<sup>3</sup> (respirable fraction). The NIOSH REL for zinc oxide (dust or fume) is 5 mg/m<sup>3</sup> 10 hr TWA with a 15 mg/m<sup>3</sup> ceiling limit (15 minute sample) for zinc oxide dust and a 10 mg/m<sup>3</sup> STEL for zinc oxide fume (15 minute sample).

**NOTE:** *The selection of the necessary level of engineering controls and personal protective equipment will vary depending upon the conditions of use and the potential for exposure. The following are therefore only general guidelines that may not fit all circumstances. Control measures to consider include:*

**Ventilation:** Use adequate local or general ventilation to maintain the concentration of zinc oxide fumes in the working environment well below recommended occupational exposure limits. Supply sufficient replacement air to make up for air removed by the exhaust system. Where metallic particles of zinc are being collected and transported by a ventilation system, use a non-sparking, grounded ventilation system separate from other exhaust ventilation systems. Locate dust collectors and fans outdoors if possible and provide dust collectors with explosion vents or blow out panels. Refer to appropriate NFPA Standards 484, 654, and/or 68 for specific guidance.

**Protective Clothing:** Gloves are recommended to prevent prolonged or repeated direct skin contact when zinc is processed. Eye and respiratory protection may be required where zinc oxide fume is generated. Where hot or molten metal is handled, heat-resistant gloves, face shield, and clothing to protect from hot metal splash should be worn. Safety type boots are recommended.

**Respirators:** Where zinc oxide dust or fumes are generated and cannot be controlled to within acceptable levels, use appropriate NIOSH-approved respiratory protection equipment (a 42CFR84 Class N, R or P-95 particulate filter cartridge).

**General Hygiene Considerations:** Always practice good personal hygiene. Refrain from eating, drinking, or smoking in work areas. Thoroughly wash hands before eating, drinking, or smoking in appropriate designated areas.

## SECTION 9. PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

<b>Appearance:</b> Bluish-silver lustrous metal	<b>Odour:</b> None	<b>Odour Threshold:</b> None	<b>pH:</b> Not Applicable
<b>Vapour Pressure:</b> 1 mm at 487°C Negligible at 20°C	<b>Vapour Density:</b> Not Applicable	<b>Melting Point/Range:</b> 420° C	<b>Boiling Point/Range:</b> 908° C
<b>Relative Density</b> (Water = 1): 7.1	<b>Evaporation Rate:</b> Not Applicable	<b>Coefficient of Water/Oil Distribution:</b> Log P (oct) = -0.47 (estimated)	<b>Solubility:</b> Insoluble in Water (0.2 mg/l @ pH 7)
<b>Flammability:</b> Non-combustible solid.	<b>Flammable Limits (LEL/UEL):</b> LEL (Zinc Dust): 500 g/m <sup>3</sup> ; UEL Not Determined.	<b>Auto-ignition Temperature:</b> Approx 680°C (dust cloud in air), Approx 460°C (dust layer).	<b>Decomposition Temperature:</b> Oxidation starts approx 450°C

## SECTION 10. STABILITY AND REACTIVITY

**Stability & Reactivity:** Massive metal is stable and not considered reactive under normal temperatures and pressures. Hazardous polymerization or runaway reactions will not occur. Zinc metal slowly becomes covered with a white coating of a hydrated basic zinc carbonate on exposure to moist air. Freshly formed, fine, condensed zinc dust or powder may heat spontaneously and ignite on exposure to air when damp. Zinc metal will react with acids and strong alkalis to generate flammable hydrogen gas. A violent, explosive reaction may occur when powdered zinc is heated with sulphur. Powdered zinc will become incandescent or ignite in the presence of fluorine, chlorine, bromine or interhalogens (e.g., chlorine trifluoride). Powdered zinc can also react explosively with halogenated hydrocarbons if heated. Mixtures with potassium chlorate or fused ammonium nitrate may explode on impact.

**Incompatibilities:** Contact with acids and alkalis will generate highly flammable hydrogen gas. Contact with acidic solutions of arsenic and antimony compounds may evolve highly toxic ARSINE or STIBINE gas. Incompatible with strong oxidizing agents such as chlorine, fluorine, bromine, sodium, potassium or barium peroxide, sodium or potassium chlorate, chromium trioxide and fused ammonium nitrate. Also incompatible with elemental sulphur dust, halogenated hydrocarbons or chlorinated solvents, chlorinated rubber, and ammonium sulphide or calcium disulphide.

**Hazardous Decomposition Products:** High temperature operations such as oxy-acetylene cutting, electric arc welding or overheating a molten bath will generate zinc oxide fume which, on inhalation in sufficient quantity, can produce metal fume fever, a transient influenza-like illness.

## SECTION 11. TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION

**General:** Zinc, especially in the metal form, is relatively non-toxic. However, it can react with other materials, such as oxygen or acids, to form compounds that can be potentially hazardous and/or toxic. The primary route of exposure would be through the generation and inhalation of zinc oxide fume.

### Acute:

**Skin/Eye:** In most cases, dermal exposure to zinc or zinc compounds does not result in any noticeable toxic effects. Zinc metal is not chemically irritating to the eyes.

**Inhalation:** If excessive quantities of zinc oxide fume are inhaled, it can result in the condition called metal fume fever. The symptoms of metal fume fever will occur within 3 to 10 hours, and include immediate dryness and irritation of the throat, tightness of the chest and coughing, which may later be followed by flu-like symptoms of fever, malaise, perspiration, frontal headache, muscle cramps, low back pain, occasionally blurred vision, nausea, and vomiting. The symptoms are temporary and generally disappear, without medical intervention, within 24 to 48 hours of onset. There are no recognized complications, after effects, or chronic effects that result from this condition.

**Ingestion:** Zinc is not expected to be harmful if ingested. When ingested in excessive quantities, zinc can irritate the stomach resulting in nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain and diarrhea. Ingestion is not a typical route of occupational exposure.

### Chronic:

There is no chronic form of metal fume fever but in rare instances an acute incident may be followed by complaints such as bronchitis or pneumonia. Some workers may develop a short-term immunity (resistance) so that repeated exposure to zinc oxide fumes does not cause metal fume fever. This immunity (resistance) however is quickly lost after short absences from work (weekends or vacations). Workers exposed to finely divided metallic zinc for up to 35 years revealed no acute or chronic illnesses attributable to zinc. Prolonged or repeated skin contact with zinc dust or powder may cause dryness, irritation and cracking (dermatitis) since zinc is astringent and may tend to draw moisture from the skin. Zinc is not listed as a human carcinogen by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the National Toxicology Program (NTP), the International Agency for

Research on Cancer (IARC), the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) or the European Union (EU).

**Animal Toxicity:**

<u>Ingredient:</u>	<u>Acute Oral Toxicity:</u>	<u>Acute Dermal Toxicity:</u>	<u>Acute Inhalation Toxicity:</u>
Zinc	>5,000 mg/kg <sup>†</sup>	No data available	>5.41 mg/L <sup>‡</sup>
	<sup>†</sup> LD <sub>50</sub> , Mouse, Oral,		<sup>‡</sup> LC <sub>50</sub> , Rat, Inhalation, 4 hour

**SECTION 12. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION**

Zinc metal is relatively insoluble; however, processing of the product or extended exposure in aquatic and terrestrial environments may lead to the release of zinc compounds in bioavailable forms. Zinc is highly mobile, and can be toxic in the aquatic environment with water hardness, pH and dissolved organic carbon content being major regulating factors. Zinc also has the potential to bioaccumulate in plants and animals in both aquatic and terrestrial environments. In soils, zinc is moderately mobile in accordance with soil properties (e.g., cation exchange capacity, pH, redox potential, chemical species); these properties also influence its bioavailability to terrestrial plants.

**SECTION 13. DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS**

If material cannot be returned to process or salvage, dispose of in accordance with applicable regulations.

**SECTION 14. TRANSPORT INFORMATION**

PROPER SHIPPING NAME ..... Not applicable – not regulated.  
U.S. DOT AND TRANSPORT CANADA HAZARD CLASSIFICATION .... Not applicable  
U.S. DOT AND TRANSPORT CANADA PID ..... Not applicable  
MARINE POLLUTANT ..... No  
IMO CLASSIFICATION ..... Not regulated

**SECTION 15. REGULATORY INFORMATION**

**U.S.**

INGREDIENT LISTED ON TSCA INVENTORY ..... Yes

HAZARDOUS UNDER HAZARD COMMUNICATION STANDARD ..... No

CERCLA SECTION 103 HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES.....Zinc ..... Yes .....RQ: 1,000 lb. (454 kg.)\*  
\* reporting not required when diameter of the pieces of solid metal released is equal to or exceeds 100 micrometers (0.004 inches).

EPCRA SECTION 302 EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE ..... No

EPCRA SECTION 311/312 HAZARD CATEGORIES ..... No Hazard Categories Apply

EPCRA SECTION 313 TOXIC RELEASE INVENTORY: ..... This product does not contain any toxic chemicals subject to the Toxic Release reporting requirements. However, potential by-products from working with this product - "Zinc (Fume or Dust)" CAS 7440-66-6 are reportable.

**SECTION 16. OTHER INFORMATION**

**Date of Original Issue:** July 23, 1997 **Version:** 01 (*First edition*)  
**Date of Latest Revision:** December 06, 2022 **Version:** 16

The information in this Safety Data Sheet is based on the following references:

- American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, 2004, Documentation of the Threshold Limit Values and Biological Exposure Indices, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition plus updates.
- American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, 2022, Threshold Limit Values for Chemical Substances and Physical Agents and Biological Exposure Indices.
- American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, 2021, Guide to Occupational Exposure Values.
- Bretherick's Handbook of Reactive Chemical Hazards, 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition (P. G. Urben, Ed), 1995.

- Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) Hamilton, ON, CHEMINFO Record No. 239 – Zinc Metal.
- European Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, amending and repealing directives 67/548/EEC and 1999/45/EC, and amending Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 (REACH).
- Health Canada, SOR/2015-17, Hazardous Products Regulations, 11 February 2015.
- International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), Monographs on the Evaluation of the Carcinogenic Risk of Chemicals to Man, 1972 – present, (multi-volume work), World Health Organization, Geneva.
- Merck & Co., Inc., 2001, The Merck Index, An Encyclopedia of Chemicals, Drugs, and Biologicals, 13<sup>th</sup> Edition.
- National Library of Medicine, National Toxicology Information Program, Hazardous Substance Data Bank (on-line version).
- Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee – Toxicity Summary for Zinc and Zinc Compounds, April 1992.
- Patty's Toxicology, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2001 E. Bingham, B. Cofrssen & CH Powell (Eds.).
- U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, National Toxicology Program (NTP), 15<sup>th</sup> Report on Carcinogens, December 2021.
- U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, NIOSH Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards (on-line edition).
- U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Toxicological Profile for Zinc - August 2005.
- U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Registry of Toxic Effects of Chemical Substances (RTECS), CCOHS on-line version.
- U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration, 1989, Code of Federal Regulations, Title 29, Part 1910.1000 and 1910.1200.

**Acronyms not spelled out elsewhere in the SDS:**

CAS: Chemical Abstracts Service

CERCLA: Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act

DOT: Department of Transportation

EPCRA: Emergency Planning and Community Right- to-Know Act

IMO: International Maritime Organization

LD50, LC50: Lethal Dose 50%, Lethal Concentration 50%

OEGs: Occupational Exposure Guidelines

TSCA: Toxic Substances Control Act

Wt.: Weight

**Notice to Reader**

Although reasonable precautions have been taken in the preparation of the data contained herein, it is offered solely for your information, consideration and investigation. Teck American Metal Sales Incorporated and Teck Metals Ltd. extend no warranty and assume no responsibility for the accuracy of the content and expressly disclaim all liability for reliance thereon. This safety data sheet provides guidelines for the safe handling and processing of this product; it does not and cannot advise on all possible situations. Therefore, your specific use of this product should be evaluated to determine if additional precautions are required. Individuals exposed to this product should read and understand this information and be provided pertinent training prior to working with this product.