

**COPPER CATHODE  
SAFETY DATA SHEET**

**SECTION 1. IDENTIFICATION**

**Product Identity:** Copper Cathode

**Trade Names and Synonyms:** Copper Metal, Copper Laminate, EW Processed Copper

**Manufacturer:**  
Compañía Minera Teck Carmen de Andacollo  
Camino a Chepiquilla s/n  
Andacollo  
Región de Coquimbo, Chile  
Emergency Phone Number  
56.51.431.589

**Supplier:**  
Compañía Minera Teck Carmen de Andacollo  
Camino a Chepiquilla s/n  
Andacollo  
Región de Coquimbo, Chile

**Preparer:**  
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CANADA V6C 0B3

**Date of Last Review:** August 27, 2015.

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**Product Use:** Copper is used in the manufacture of bronzes, brass, other copper alloys, cables and electrical conductors.

**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 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
<b>Hazard Statements</b>  None required	<b>Precautionary Statements:</b>  None required

**Emergency Overview:** Copper cathode is a reddish metal that does not burn in bulk. Copper dust clouds will not explode readily, if at all, in air. Due to its high melting point, molten copper metal is unlikely to be a risk in most fire situations. This metal is relatively non-toxic and poses little immediate hazard to personnel or the environment in an emergency situation.

**Potential Health Effects:** Inhalation of dust may result in irritation of the nasal mucous membranes. Inhalation of copper oxide fumes may cause irritation of the upper respiratory tract and may result in a form of metal fume fever, characterized by flu-like symptoms such as chills, fever, nausea and vomiting. Ingestion of copper metal may cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, headaches, dizziness, and gastrointestinal irritation. Copper products embedded in the eye may cause redness or pain and discoloration of ocular tissue. Direct skin contact may result in irritation in some workers. Discoloration of the skin has been observed from handling

copper, but does not indicate any actual injury. Copper is not listed as a carcinogen by OSHA, the NTP, the ACGIH, IARC, or the EU (see Toxicological Information, Section 11).

**Potential Environmental Effects:** Copper can be toxic to aquatic and terrestrial organisms. However, in metal form it is not readily bio-available in the environment (see Ecological Information, Section 12).

### SECTION 3. COMPOSITION / INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS

COMPONENT	CAS Registry No.	CONCENTRATION (% wgt/wgt)		
Copper	7440-50-8	99.99+%		
<i>Typical trace element composition of a copper cathode (ppm):</i>				
Ag <1.0	Co <1.0	Ni <1.0	Sb <0.1	Te <0.1
As <0.1	Cr <1.0	P <1.0	Se <0.1	Zn <1.0
Bi <0.1	Fe <1.0	Pb <3.0	Si <1.0	
Cd <1.0	Mn <1.0	S <5.0	Sn <0.1	

Note: See Section 8 for Occupational Exposure Guidelines.

### SECTION 4. FIRST AID MEASURES

**Eye Contact:** *Symptoms:* Mild eye irritation, redness. Do not allow victim to rub eye(s). Let the eye(s) water naturally for a few minutes. If particle/dust does not dislodge, flush with lukewarm, gently flowing water for five minutes or until particle/dust is removed, while holding eyelid(s) open. If irritation persists, immediately obtain medical attention. DO NOT attempt to manually remove anything stuck to the eye, but rather seek immediate medical attention in this case.

**Skin Contact:** *Symptoms:* Soiling of skin. *Dust:* No health effects expected. If irritation does occur, flush with lukewarm, gently flowing water and mild soap for five minutes or until the product is removed. If skin irritation persists or if you feel unwell, obtain medical advice. *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. Get medical advice/attention if you feel unwell or are concerned. NOTE: Metal fume fever may develop 3-10 hours after exposure to copper fume. If symptoms of metal fume fever (flu-like symptoms) develop, obtain medical attention.

**Ingestion:** *Symptoms:* Metallic taste, stomach upset. Rinse mouth. If irritation or discomfort occurs, obtain medical advice.

### SECTION 5. FIRE FIGHTING MEASURES

**Fire and Explosion Hazards:** Massive metal is not considered a fire or explosion hazard. Finely-divided copper metal dust or powder has also been demonstrated to be nonflammable in laboratory testing. Explosions may occur however upon contact with certain incompatible materials (see Stability and Reactivity, Section 10).

**Extinguishing Media:** Use any means of extinction appropriate for the surrounding fire conditions such as water spray, carbon dioxide, dry chemical or foam.

**Fire Fighting:** If possible, move solid cathodes from fire area. Cool any cathodes that are exposed to heat or flames by the application of water streams until well after the fire has been extinguished. Copper metal has a high melting point, and is unlikely to melt except in the most extreme fire conditions. If molten metal is present, do not use direct water streams on fires, due to the risk of a steam explosion that could potentially eject molten metal uncontrollably. Use a fine water mist on the front-running edge of the spill and on the top of the molten metal to cool and solidify it. Fire fighters must be fully-trained and wear full protective clothing including gloves and 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 spillage 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 using methods which will minimize dust generation (e.g., vacuum solids, dampen material and shovel or wet sweep). Return uncontaminated spilled material to the process if possible. Place contaminated material in suitable labelled containers for later recovery in view of the commercial value of copper. Treat or dispose of all waste material per local, regional, and/or national requirements.

**Personal Precautions:** Persons responding to an accidental spill should wear protective coveralls and gloves and avoid contact with the corners of the cathode and its peripheral ridge. Close-fitting safety goggles may be necessary in some circumstances to prevent eye contact with dust. Where molten metal is involved, wear heat-resistant gloves and suitable clothing for protection from hot-metal splash as well as a respirator to prevent inhalation of copper fumes (see Section 8).

**Environmental Precautions:** Copper compounds can pose a significant threat to aquatic life forms. However, in metal form it is not readily bio-available in the environment. Nevertheless, contamination of water and soil should be prevented.

## SECTION 7. HANDLING AND STORAGE

Store copper in a dry, covered area. Copper cathodes suspected of containing moisture should be THOROUGHLY DRIED before being added to a molten bath. Cathodes may contain cavities that collect moisture. Entrained moisture will expand explosively when immersed in a molten bath and potentially spatter molten metal out of the bath.

## 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>
Copper ( <i>Dust</i> )	1 mg Cu/m <sup>3</sup>	1 mg Cu/m <sup>3</sup>	1 mg Cu/m <sup>3</sup>
Copper ( <i>Fume</i> )	0.2 mg Cu/m <sup>3</sup>	0.1 mg Cu/m <sup>3</sup>	0.1 mg Cu/m <sup>3</sup>

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: 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 copper (as either dust or 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.

**Protective Clothing:** Gloves and coveralls or other work clothing are recommended to prevent prolonged or repeated direct skin contact when copper is processed. Appropriate eye protection should be worn where fume, dust or copper particles are generated. Where hot or molten metal is handled, heat resistant gloves, goggles or face shield, and clothing to protect from hot metal splash and radiant heat should be worn. Safety type boots are recommended.

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

**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> Reddish metal	<b>Odour:</b> None	<b>Odour Threshold:</b> None	<b>pH:</b> Not Applicable
<b>Vapour Pressure:</b> 1 mm at 1083°C Negligible @ 20°C	<b>Vapour Density:</b> Not Applicable	<b>Melting Point/Range:</b> 1083° C	<b>Boiling Point/Range:</b> 2595° C
<b>Relative Density</b> (Water = 1): 8.94	<b>Evaporation Rate:</b> Not Applicable	<b>Coefficient of Water/Oil Distribution:</b> Not Applicable	<b>Solubility:</b> Insoluble in water
<b>Flash Point:</b> None	<b>Flammable Limits (LEL/UEL):</b> Not Applicable	<b>Auto-ignition Temperature:</b> Not Applicable	<b>Decomposition Temperature:</b> Not Applicable

### Other Physical Characteristics of Copper Cathode as Sold:

Weight and Dimensions	Cathode	Bundle/Package
Length (mm)	1,000	1,000
Width (mm)	1,000	1,000
Thickness (mm)	4	
Weight (kg)	45-48	2,046 – 2,140
Units per Bundle/Package		44-46
Strap		3
Seals		1

## SECTION 10. STABILITY AND REACTIVITY

**Stability & Reactivity:** Copper is stable and not considered reactive under normal temperatures and pressures. Hazardous polymerization or runaway reactions will not occur.

**Incompatibilities:** Copper is incompatible with nitric acid, acetylene, chlorine fluorine, chlorine trifluoride, and peroxides. Shock-sensitive compounds are formed with acetylenic compounds, ethylene oxide or azide compounds. Copper in finely-divided powder or granular form reacts with strong oxidants like chlorates, bromates, iodates and ammonium nitrate causing a potential explosion hazard.

**Hazardous Decomposition Products:** High temperature operations such as oxy-acetylene cutting, electric arc welding, arc-air gouging or overheating a molten metal bath may generate fumes. The fumes will contain copper oxides, which, on inhalation in sufficient quantity, can produce metal fume fever.

## SECTION 11. TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION

**General:** Copper is an essential element, but can become toxic when inhaled or ingested in large doses. Most reports of acute toxicity are from suicidal attempts involving ingestion of copper sulfate. Individuals with a rare disorder called "Wilson's Disease" (estimated prevalence 0.003% of the population) are predisposed to accumulate copper and should not be occupationally exposed. However, in the form in which this product is sold it is relatively non-toxic. The major route of exposure would be through the generation and inhalation of copper oxide fume.

### Acute:

**Skin:** Copper metal is not irritating to skin other than by direct abrasive action of metal particles on skin tissue.

**Eye:** Contact with dust or fume may cause local irritation. Embedded copper particles in the eye result in a brownish or green-brown discoloration of the cornea, lens and iris (chalcosis) which may progress to serious ocular complications.

**Inhalation:** An intense, short-term exposure to fumes from cutting or welding, etc. could result in the condition called metal fume fever. The symptoms of metal fume fever generally occur within 3 to 10 hours. They may include immediate dryness and irritation of the throat, metallic taste, tightness of the chest, and coughing that 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. Severe cases could cause pulmonary congestion and edema as well as acute encephalopathy with possible seizures, coma, and death. However, short-term exposures of this magnitude are unlikely in industry today. Those experiencing a single acute episode of metal fume fever generally recover slowly but without apparent residual effects. Copper dust may be irritating to the nasal passages and the throat with a sweetish, metallic taste and excessive salivation.

**Ingestion:** Individuals reported to have ingested large quantities of copper salts have reported gastrointestinal effects including vomiting, diarrhea, nausea, malaise, anorexia, abdominal pain and a metallic taste in the mouth. Effects on the kidneys and liver, and even death have also been reported in severe cases of copper poisoning. However, copper is a strong emetic and spontaneous vomiting following ingestion usually limits uptake of copper.

### Chronic:

Prolonged exposure to copper dust or fume can cause irritation to the eye and skin. A green discoloration of the skin has been reported in some copper workers similar to that sometimes experienced from copper jewelry. This green discoloration may occasionally also be seen in hair (particularly notable in blonde hair), nails and teeth. A few instances of allergic contact dermatitis have been reported. Copper 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>
Copper	>5,000 mg/kg <sup>†</sup>	>2,000 mg/kg*	>5.11 mg/L <sup>‡</sup>

<sup>†</sup> LD<sub>50</sub>, Mouse, Oral      \* LD<sub>50</sub>, Rat, Dermal      <sup>‡</sup> LC<sub>50</sub>, Rat, Inhalation, 4 hour

**SECTION 12. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION**

Copper metal is insoluble in water and generally has essentially no direct bioavailability. However, its processing or extended exposure in the aquatic and terrestrial environments can lead to the release of copper in bioavailable forms. These can cause detrimental environmental effects. The mobility of copper in soluble forms is media dependent. These can bind with inorganic and organic ligands and particulates, reducing mobility and bioavailability in soil and water. Bioavailability is also controlled by other factors such as pH and hardness in the aquatic environment.

**SECTION 13. DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS**

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

**SECTION 14. TRANSPORT INFORMATION**

No special shipping or transportation requirements in cathode form.

**SECTION 15. REGULATORY INFORMATION****CHILEAN:**

Mine Safety Rules: Supreme Decree 72

Main Environment Act 19300

**U.S.**

Ingredient Listed on TSCA Inventory ..... Yes

Hazardous Under Hazard Communication Standard ..... No (CFR 1910.1200, revised March 26, 2012)

CERCLA Section 103 Hazardous Substances ..... Yes ..... Copper ..... RQ: 5,000 lbs. (2270 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 ..... Copper ..... CAS No. 7440-50-8  
 Percent by Weight - At least 99%

**SECTION 16. OTHER INFORMATION**

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**Date of Latest Revision:** August 27, 2015      **Version:** 02

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

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- American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, 2015, Threshold Limit Values for Chemical Substances and Physical Agents and Biological Exposure Indices.
- BIA Report 13/97 – Combustion and Explosion Characteristics of Dusts – Table 2 Product Group: Metals and Alloys.
- Bretherick's Handbook of Reactive Chemical Hazards, 20th Anniversary Edition. (P. G. Urben, Ed.) 1995.
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- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of Response and Restoration, CAMEO Chemicals – Database of Hazardous Materials [<http://www.cameochemicals.noaa.gov/>].
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- Toxicology of the Eye, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. W. Morton Grant, MD, Charles C. Thomas , Publishers; Springfield. IL (1974).
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- U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Toxicological Profile for Copper (Sept 2004).
- U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, NIOSH Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards. CD-ROM Edition September 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 Web Access subscription. Accessed 21 Jul 2015.
- U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration, 1989, Code of Federal Regulations, Title 29, Part 1910.

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