

**SULPHUR DIOXIDE  
SAFETY DATA SHEET**

**SECTION 1. IDENTIFICATION**

**Product Identity:** Sulphur Dioxide.

**Trade Names and Synonyms:** Sulfurous acid anhydride, sulfurous oxide, sulfur dioxide, SO<sub>2</sub>

**Manufacturer:**

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

**Supplier:**

Teck Metals Ltd.  
Trail Operations  
Trail, British Columbia  
V1R 4L8

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**Product Use:** Used in the manufacture of chlorine dioxide (a pulp and paper bleaching chemical), as a dechlorination agent in the pulp and paper industry and waste water treatment plants, in the food processing industries as a preservative, as a chemical additive in the gold industry cyanide destruction process, in the manufacture of sodium bisulphite solution and in the manufacturing of sodium hydrosulphite.


**Restrictions on Use:** None identified to date.

**SECTION 2. HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION**

**CLASSIFICATION:**

	<b>Health</b>	<b>Physical</b>	<b>Environmental</b>
Acute Toxicity, Oral	- Does not meet criteria	<b>Gas Under Pressure – Liquefied Gas</b>	Aquatic Toxicity – Short Term/Long Term – Does not meet criteria
<b>Acute Toxicity (Inhalation)</b>	- <b>Category 3</b>		
<b>Skin Corrosion/Irritation</b>	- <b>Category 1</b>		
<b>Eye Damage/Eye Irritation</b>	- <b>Category 1</b>		
Respiratory or Skin Sensitization	- Does not meet criteria		
Mutagenicity	- Does not meet criteria		
Carcinogenicity	- Does not meet criteria		
Reproductive Toxicity	- Does not meet criteria		
<b>Specific Target Organ Toxicity</b>			
<b>Acute Exposure</b>	- <b>Category 3</b>		
Chronic Exposure	- Does not meet criteria		

**LABEL:**

<p><b>Symbols:</b></p> 	<p><b>Signal Word:</b> <b>DANGER</b></p>
<p align="center"><b><u>Hazard Statements</u></b></p> <p><b>DANGER!</b> Contains gas under pressure. May explode if heated. Toxic if inhaled. Causes severe skin burns and serious eye damage (Liquid SO<sub>2</sub>) May cause respiratory irritation.</p>	<p align="center"><b><u>Precautionary Statements:</u></b></p> <p>Avoid breathing gas. Use only outdoors or in a well-ventilated area. Store in a well-ventilated place. Keep container tightly closed. Wear protective gloves, protective clothing, and eye and face protection when handling liquid SO<sub>2</sub>. Dispose of containers/contents according to local waste disposal regulations. IF INHALED: Remove person to fresh air and keep comfortable for breathing. Call a poison centre/doctor. IF IN EYES: Rinse continuously with water for several minutes. Immediately call poison centre/doctor. SPECIAL TREATMENT: (For Liquid SO<sub>2</sub> ON SKIN): Gently take off immediately all contaminated clothing. Rinse skin with lukewarm water. DO not rub area or apply dry heat in attempt to rewarm area. Transport immediately to emergency care facility.</p>

**Emergency Overview:** A colourless gas or liquefied compressed gas with a pungent, irritating odour and taste. Sulphur dioxide does not burn but cylinders or tanks may rupture and explode if heated, releasing clouds of irritating and toxic SO<sub>2</sub> gas. Contact with liquid SO<sub>2</sub> can cause freezing of tissue and frostbite. Wear full protective clothing and a positive pressure full face-piece SCBA in emergency situations involving SO<sub>2</sub>.

**Potential Health Effects:** Irritating to the eyes and upper respiratory tract, becoming a severe irritant at high concentrations. Most inhaled SO<sub>2</sub> only penetrates as far as the nose and throat because it dissolves so rapidly in the moist tissues of the upper airways. In severe cases at very high concentrations serious respiratory effects have been reported. Direct skin or eye contact with liquid SO<sub>2</sub> may cause frostbite and burns. Sulphur dioxide is not listed as a carcinogen by OSHA, NTP, IARC, ACGIH or the EU. (See Toxicological Information, Section 11.)

**Potential Environmental Effects:** Sulphur dioxide is a common air contaminant in most industrialized areas; it is also the chemical precursor to acid rain. At elevated concentrations, many plants are sensitive to atmospheric sulphur dioxide. Release of this product to the environment should be avoided (see Ecological Information, Section 12).

**SECTION 3. COMPOSITION / INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS**

HAZARDOUS COMPONENTS	CAS Registry No.	CONCENTRATION (% wt./wt.)
Sulphur Dioxide	7446-09-5	99.9%

Note: See Section 8 for Occupational Exposure Guidelines.

**SECTION 4. FIRST AID MEASURES**

**Eye Contact:** *Symptoms:* Irritation, smarting, stinging, tearing. Avoid direct contact. Wear chemical protective gloves if necessary. Remove source of contamination or move victim to fresh air. Immediately flush the contaminated eye(s) with lukewarm, gently flowing water for at least 5 minutes for the gas (20 minutes for the liquid) or until the chemical is removed, while holding the eyelid(s) open. Take care not to rinse contaminated water into the unaffected eye or onto the face. Quickly transport victim to an emergency care facility.

**Skin Contact:** *Symptoms:* Irritation, redness, burning, frostbite. (Gas) If irritation occurs, flush contaminated area with lukewarm, gently flowing water for at least 5 minutes. If irritation persists, obtain medical attention immediately. (Liquid SO<sub>2</sub>) Avoid direct contact. Wear chemical protective clothing, if necessary. Quickly remove victim from source of contamination and briefly flush with lukewarm, gently flowing water until the chemical is removed. DO NOT attempt to re-warm the affected area on site. DO NOT rub area or apply dry heat. Gently remove clothing or jewelry that may restrict circulation. Carefully cut around clothing that sticks to the skin and remove the rest of the garment. Loosely cover the affected area with a sterile dressing. DO NOT allow victim to drink alcohol or smoke. Quickly transport victim to an emergency care facility.

**Inhalation:** *Symptoms:* Cough, dyspnea, burning nose & throat, acrid taste. Take proper precautions to ensure your own safety before attempting rescue (e.g., wear appropriate protective equipment, use the buddy system). Remove source of contamination or move victim from exposure area to fresh air immediately. If breathing is difficult, trained personnel should administer medical oxygen. DO NOT allow victim to move around unnecessarily. Symptoms of pulmonary edema can be delayed up to 48 hours after exposure. Quickly transport victim to an emergency care facility.

**Ingestion:** Ingestion is not an applicable route of exposure for gases.

## SECTION 5. FIRE FIGHTING MEASURES

**Fire and Explosion Hazards:** Sulphur dioxide is not flammable. However, heat from a surrounding fire can rupture SO<sub>2</sub> storage vessels causing a dangerous explosion and release of toxic sulphur dioxide gas. Cool any containers of sulphur dioxide that are exposed to heat or flames by the application of water streams until well after the fire has been extinguished since pressure will increase rapidly with temperature increase. For large fires that threaten tanks or cylinders of SO<sub>2</sub> consider evacuating downwind areas. Use caution in applying water to an SO<sub>2</sub> leak, as the run-off will be acidic and corrosive to other materials as well as harmful to the environment. Run-off may require collection and neutralization.

**Extinguishing Media:** Use any fire-fighting agent appropriate for surrounding fire conditions such as water spray, carbon dioxide, dry chemical, or foam.

**Fire Fighting:** Toxic fumes of sulphur dioxide may be released during a fire. Fire fighters must 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:** Isolate hazard area and deny entry to unprotected personnel. Properly trained personnel equipped with protective clothing and respiratory protection should locate and stop release. Can be neutralized with aqueous alkaline solutions of lime, caustic or soda ash. Dispose of waste material from neutralization process in accordance with applicable regulations. Thoroughly ventilate area before permitting re-entry.

**Personal Precautions:** Protective clothing, gloves, and respirator equipment are recommended for persons responding to an accidental release (see also Section 8). Close-fitting safety goggles and face shield may be necessary to prevent contact with liquid SO<sub>2</sub>. A positive pressure full-face self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) is required for emergency or planned entry into unknown high concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub> that may exceed the IDLH level (100 ppm).

**Environmental Precautions:** This product has the potential to pose risks to aquatic and terrestrial plants, due to their sensitivity to its constituent compound. Discharge to the aquatic environment should be prevented. Liquid spills can produce elevated concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub> gas, whose clouds would be heavier than air, and which may either flow downhill, or collect in low spots; in both cases, the clouds would not be easily dispersed, elevating SO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in the receiving environment.

## SECTION 7. HANDLING AND STORAGE

**Precautions for Safe Handling:** Personnel should be thoroughly trained regarding the proper use and handling procedures for the material and its containers. An eyewash and quick drench shower should be provided near work areas where liquid sulphur dioxide is handled. Installation of devices for the detection of SO<sub>2</sub> gas is recommended in areas where there is a recognized potential for sudden release of the gas. Storage containers and transfer lines should be clearly labeled and connections inspected and leak tested on a regular basis.

**Conditions for Safe Storage:** Store in a registered steel pressure vessel, constructed to comply with ASME Section 8 Code, at appropriate temperatures. Keep containers tightly closed and store outdoors or indoors in a dry, cool, well-ventilated fireproof area. Protect against physical damage. SO<sub>2</sub> gas is heavier than air and leaked gas can accumulate in low areas. Do not store below ground. Flooring and sumps should be acid-proof and drain to a collection system. Avoid exposure to moisture, high temperatures and incompatible materials (see Section 10 - Stability and Reactivity).

## SECTION 8. EXPOSURE CONTROLS / PERSONAL PROTECTION

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

<u>Component</u>	<u>ACGIH TLV</u>	<u>OSHA PEL</u>	<u>NIOSH REL</u>
Sulphur Dioxide	0.25 ppm (0.65 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	5 ppm (13 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	2 ppm (5 mg/m <sup>3</sup> ) 5 ppm (13 mg/m <sup>3</sup> ) STEL

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 sulphur dioxide gas in the working environment well below recommended occupational exposure limits.

**Protective Clothing:** When handling liquid SO<sub>2</sub>, gloves and coveralls or other protective clothing are recommended to prevent the skin from becoming frozen by contact with the liquid or from contact with very cold vessels and equipment handling the liquid (especially loading and off-loading of trucks and railcars). Face shield and close-fitting safety goggles must be worn when handling this material in liquid form. An eyewash and quick drench shower should be provided within the immediate work area for emergency use where there is any possibility of exposure to liquids that are extremely cold or rapidly evaporating.

**Respirators:** Where sulphur dioxide gas is generated and cannot be controlled to within acceptable levels by engineering means, use appropriate NIOSH-approved respiratory protection equipment (a chemical cartridge respirator with cartridge(s) to protect against sulphur dioxide up to 20 ppm, a full face-piece chemical cartridge respirator or half mask PAPR or SAR up to 100 ppm). For emergency or planned entry into an unknown concentration or IDLH condition, workers must be fully-trained and wear full protective clothing including a NIOSH-approved, self-contained breathing apparatus which supplies a positive air pressure within a full face-piece mask.

NOTE: - IDLH = Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health, PAPR = Powered Air Purifying Respirator, SAR = Supplied Air Respirator

**General Hygiene Considerations:** Always follow good hygiene and housekeeping practices. Do not eat, drink or smoke while working with this material.

## SECTION 9. PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

<b>Appearance:</b> Colourless Gas or Liquid	<b>Odour:</b> Pungent and Irritating	<b>Odour Threshold:</b> 1 – 3 ppm	<b>pH:</b> Not Applicable
<b>Vapour Pressure:</b> 47.8 PSIG at 68°F (20°C)	<b>Vapour Density:</b> 2.26 @ 0°C	<b>Melting Point/Range:</b> -76°C (-104°F)	<b>Boiling Point/Range:</b> -10 °C (14°F)
<b>Relative Density</b> (Water = 1): 1.44 at 32°F (0°C)	<b>Evaporation Rate:</b> 40.18 g/m <sup>2</sup> /s at 70°F (21°C)	<b>Coefficient of Water/Oil Distribution:</b> Unknown	<b>Solubility:</b> 11.9% by weight at 60°F (16°C)
<b>Flammability:</b> Non Flammable Gas	<b>Flammable Limits (LEL/UEL):</b> Not Applicable	<b>Auto-ignition Temperature:</b> Not Applicable	<b>Decomposition Temperature:</b> Not Applicable

## SECTION 10. STABILITY AND REACTIVITY

**Stability & Reactivity:** Stable under conditions of normal use. SO<sub>2</sub> is extremely stable to heat even up to 2000°C. Forms a moderately acidic solution (pH<3) on contact with moisture in the atmosphere or on the skin. Moist SO<sub>2</sub> gas is corrosive to most common metals but anhydrous SO<sub>2</sub> is not corrosive to mild steel or aluminum.

**Incompatibilities:** Strong alkalis, ammonia, oxidizing agents, chlorates, powdered chromium, manganese or aluminum, halogens (fluorine, chlorine) and interhalogens (chlorine trifluoride, etc.), metal oxides, hydrides, azides and acetylides, sodium carbide and acrolein.

**Hazardous Decomposition Products:** None.

## SECTION 11. TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION

**General:** Sulphur dioxide is a moderate to strong irritant gas and the major effects are on the upper respiratory tract. Asthmatics may be particularly sensitive to the bronchospastic properties of sulphur dioxide. The major route of exposure to the gas is by inhalation. Skin and eye contact with liquid SO<sub>2</sub> are also serious risks. Since sulphur dioxide is a gas at temperatures greater than -10 degrees Celsius, ingestion is unlikely to occur.

**Acute:**

**Skin/Eye:** Skin contact with liquid sulphur dioxide can cause frostbite and severe burns. The gas will react with moisture on the skin and cause irritation. Eye contact may result in severe burns and corneal damage that can result in blindness. High concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub> gas (>10 ppm) are very irritating to the eyes as well, causing smarting, stinging and tearing.

**Inhalation:** Inhalation of sulphur dioxide gas may cause wheezing, tightness of the chest, cough, difficult breathing, nasal irritation and discharge and alteration in the sense of taste and smell. Pulmonary edema and permanent lung injury have been reported as a result of exposure to very high levels of SO<sub>2</sub> gas in accident situations.

**Ingestion:** Though unlikely to occur, ingestion of liquid sulphur dioxide would cause severe burning of the mouth, throat and stomach.

**Chronic:** A number of studies of occupationally exposed workers have been done, with some studies showing a decrease in lung function of workers and other studies showing no measurable effect. Sulphur dioxide 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), or the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH).

**Animal Toxicity:**

<u>Hazardous Ingredient:</u>	<u>Acute Oral Toxicity:</u>	<u>Acute Dermal Toxicity:</u>	<u>Acute Inhalation Toxicity:</u>
Sulphur Dioxide	Not applicable	Not applicable	LC <sub>50</sub> = 2520 ppm/1hr 1260 ppm/4hr <sup>†</sup> (calculated)
	<sup>†</sup> LD <sub>50</sub> , Rat, Oral		<sup>‡</sup> LC <sub>50</sub> , Rat, Inhalation, 4 hour

**SECTION 12. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION**

Sulphur dioxide, when it comes into contact with water, has the potential to form sulphurous acid, which can pose ecological risks to aquatic organisms. Moreover, releases of the compound as a gas also has the potential to adversely affect green vegetation, in addition to birds and mammals.

**SECTION 13. DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Do not wash down drain or allow to reach natural watercourses. Dispose of neutralized waste consistent with regulatory requirements. Good ventilation is required during neutralization because of the presence of sulphur dioxide gas.

**SECTION 14. TRANSPORT INFORMATION**

Proper Shipping Name Transport Canada and U.S. DOT .....	Sulfur Dioxide (U.S.) or Sulphur Dioxide (Canada)
Transport Canada Classification .....	Class 2.3 (8)
U.S. DOT Hazard Classification .....	Class 2.3, 8
Transport Canada Product Identification Number .....	UN 1079
U.S. DOT Product Identification Number .....	UN 1079
Additional U.S. DOT Hazard Information.....	Toxic-Inhalation Hazard, Zone C
Marine Pollutant .....	No
IMO Classification .....	Class 2.3, 8

**SECTION 15. REGULATORY INFORMATION**

**U.S.**

Ingredient Listed on TSCA Inventory .....	Yes
Hazardous Under Hazard Communication Standard .....	Yes
CERCLA Section 103 Hazardous Substances.....	No
EPCRA Section 302 Extremely Hazardous Substance .....	Yes.....Reportable Quantity: 500 lbs. Threshold Planning Quantity: 500 lbs.
EPCRA Section 311/312 Hazard Categories: .....	Immediate (Acute) Health Hazard - Corrosive Sudden Release of Pressure - Compressed Gas
EPCRA Section 313 Toxic Release Inventory: .....	Sulfur dioxide is not a toxic chemical subject to Toxic Release Inventory reporting requirements.

**Canada:**

Listed on the Domestic Substances List ..... Yes

**SECTION 16. OTHER INFORMATION**

**Date of Original Issue:** January 9, 1998                      **Version:** 01 (*First edition*)

**Date of Latest Revision:** December 7, 2018                      **Version:** 15

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, Seventh Edition plus updates.
- American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, 2018, Guide to Occupational Exposure Values.
- American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, 2018, Threshold Limit Values for Chemical Substances and Physical Agents and Biological Exposure Indices.
- 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, Ontario, CHEMINFO Record No. 714 – Sulphur Dioxide.
- Commission de la santé et la sécurité du travail, Service du répertoire toxicologique, Dioxyde de Soufre, 2012-06.
- 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 Chemical Safety Cards (WHO/IPCS/ILO), ICSC:0074 – Sulphur Dioxide (Revised Oct. 2006).
- Merck & Co., Inc., 2001, The Merck Index, An Encyclopedia of Chemicals, Drugs, and Biologicals, Thirteenth Edition.
- National Library of Medicine, National Toxicology Information Program, Hazardous Substance Data Bank (on-line version).
- Patty's Toxicology, Fifth Edition, 2001: E. Bingham, B. Cohrssen & C.H. Powell, Ed.
- U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. NIOSH Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards. CD-ROM Edition DHHS (NIOSH) September 2005.
- 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 Transport
- EPCRA: Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act
- IMO: International Maritime Organization
- LD50 LC50: Lethal Dose 50%, Lethal Concentration 50%
- TSCA: Toxic Substances Control Act
- Wt.: Weight

**Notice to Reader**

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