

Slack wax

Product Stewardship Summary

CAS number:

64742-61-6

Chemical formula:

Not applicable, most petroleum industry substances are Substances of Unknown or Variable composition, Complex reaction products or Biological materials (UVCB).

What is Slack wax?

Slack wax is a complex combination of hydrocarbons obtained from a petroleum fraction by solvent crystallization (solvent dewaxing) or as a distillation fraction from a very waxy crude. It consists predominantly of saturated straight and branched chain hydrocarbons having carbon numbers predominantly greater than C₂₀.

How is Slack wax used?

Slack wax is used in applications where colour and residual oil content will be of minor importance, e.g. impregnation, coating or hydrophobing of industrial products.

Health, Safety and Environmental considerations

Slack wax has a flashpoint of above 200 °C and an initial boiling point above 280 °C. It is not flammable according to UN GHS criteria, but will burn. It is neither self-reactive, nor self-heating and do not undergo exothermic decomposition when heated. It is semi-solid at room temperature and best stored at temperatures around 80 °C separate from oxidising agents.

Slack wax is of low toxicity when inhaled, swallowed or in contact with skin in laboratory animals. No irritation of skin or eyes has been observed and there is no evidence of allergic skin reaction or respiratory sensitization from animal studies. Inhalation of vapours or mists may cause respiratory irritation. Appropriate personal protection equipment as well as procedures for safe handling and risk management controls as described in the current Shell Lubricant Safety Data Sheet should be applied.

Due to the high kinematic viscosity at room temperature slack wax is not considered an aspiration hazard.

Slack wax is not expected to be a germ cell mutagen, to cause cancer and there no evidence of developmental and reproductive toxicity.

Based on the above Slack wax is not classified for health hazards following UN GHS criteria.

The product is poorly soluble in water and will float on water. Therefore, tests on short- and long-term aquatic toxicity with fish, invertebrates and algae were carried out on water accommodated fractions and led to the conclusion that these base oils are practically non-toxic.

Slack wax is a UVCB substance (see explanation under "Chemical formula"). Based on the physico-chemical data and available information from similar substances an adverse effect on the environment is not expected. However, the presence of constituents with a certain environmental persistence or a bio-accumulation potential cannot be excluded. Based on the available compositional information, measured and predicted data it can be concluded that Slack wax is inherently biodegradable.

Following UN GHS criteria, Slack wax is not classified for environmental hazards.

The health, safety and environmental considerations above are not applicable for used oils and waxes, as they may contain more hazardous substances present as a consequence of applications, for which specific additives or other substances may have been introduced.

Storing and transporting Slack wax

Slack wax is mainly transported by road, rail and in barges.

The temperature during storage and transport should be kept around 80 °C. For containers or container linings use mild steel or high density polyethylene.

Precautionary measures against static discharges must be undertaken during loading and unloading and all operators must wear personal protective equipment.

Risk Characterization Summary

Risks associated with exposure to these products have been evaluated for the following "chain-of-commerce" activities: manufacture, storage, product transfer, transportation, and customers / markets. They are manufactured, stored and transported to customers in closed systems. Product is considered to pose low risk in all applications due to the non-hazardous nature of the product.

This product stewardship summary is intended to give general information about the chemical or categories of chemicals addressed. It is not intended to provide an in-depth discussion of health and safety information. Additional information is available through the chemical's applicable [Safety Data Sheet](#) which should be consulted before use of the chemical. This product stewardship summary does not supplant or replace required regulatory and/or legal communication documents.

Shell Process Oils linked to CAS number 64742-61-6:

- SPO Slack Wax
- MMO Slack Wax
- LMO Slack Wax
- Product 2908
- Product 2913
- Product 2929
- Product 2931
- Product 2937
- Product 2956



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