

Germanium-68

1. Radioactive Material Identification
Common Names: Germanium-68
Atomic Number: 32
Chemical Form: Soluble
Chemical Symbol: Ge-68 or ⁶⁸ Ge
Mass Number: 68 (36 neutrons)

2. Radiation Characteristics																									
Physical half-life: 288 days																									
Specific Activity (TBq/g): 305																									
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Progeny: Gallium-68, Ga-68																									

3. Detection and Measurement		
Methods of detection (in order of preference):		
1. A radiation survey meter equipped with an energy-compensated Geiger Mueller pancake/frisker detector. (Ludlum)		
2. Ion chamber survey meter (Fluke)		
3. Liquid Scintillation Counting is to be used when conducting wipe tests for analyzing contamination.		
Dosimetry		
Whole Body <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Skin <input type="checkbox"/>	Extremity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutron <input type="checkbox"/>
Internal: In the event of loss of containment by the sealed source, all precautions should be taken to prevent inhalation or ingestion of the material. Urine bioassay may be required after spills or contamination incidents.		
Critical Organ(s): Bone Marrow		
Annual Dose Limits: Non-radiation workers: 0.1 rem per year Radiation workers: 5 rem per year, 10 rem total over five years Pregnant radiation workers: 0.4 rem over the balance of the pregnancy		

4. Preventative Measures
Engineering Controls: Use shielding when handling Ge-68.
Personal Protective Equipment: For normal handling of unsealed sources only. Always wear disposable gloves, safety glasses, and whatever personal protective equipment and clothing appropriate to the material handled.
Special Storage Requirements: Store Ge-68 behind lead shielding, lead bricks may be necessary. Use tools to handle Ge-68 sources and contaminated objects; avoid direct hand contact.

5. Control Levels		
Oral Ingestion	Inhalation	
ALI (kBq)	ALI (kBq)	DAC (Bq/ml)
19,980	148,000 (D) 3,700 (W)	0.074 (D) 0.00148 (W)
Exemption Quantity (EQ):	370,000	Bq

6. Non-radiological Hazards

Prolonged exposure to airborne particles may result in abdominal pain, nausea, and vomiting. Additional effects include lethargy, anemia, and dizziness.

OSHA Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL):
0.1 mg/m³

7. Emergency Procedures

Personal Decontamination Procedures

- Remove loose contamination. Use care to prevent the spread of contamination and be extra careful around wounds
- Wash contaminated areas. Use mild soap or detergent initially; use a mild abrasive soap for more persistent contamination
- Do not abrade skin, only blot dry

Spill and Leak Control

- Alert everyone in the area
- Confine the problem or emergency (includes the use of absorbent material)
- Clear area
- Summon aid
- If a release of powdered or gaseous material, evacuate all personnel from room immediately and turn off any equipment that needs constant attention. Prevent others from entering the room.

Damage to Sealed Radioactive Source Holder

- Evacuate the immediate vicinity around the source holder
- Place a barrier at a safe distance from the source holder (minimum 5 meters)
- Identify area as a radiation hazard
- Contact emergency number posted on local warning sign

Suggested Emergency Protective Equipment

- Gloves
- Footwear Covers
- Safety Glasses
- Outer layer or easily removed protective clothing (as situation requires)