

Environmental Health and Safety

Technical Data Sheet for Radioactive Material

Zinc-65

1.	Radioactive	Material	Identification
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Common Names: Zinc-65

Atomic Number: 30

Chemical Form: Soluble

Chemical Symbol: Zn-65 or ⁶⁵Zn

Mass Number: 65 (35 neutrons)

2. Radiation Characteristics

Physical half-life: 243.8 days

Specific Activity (TBq/g): 305

Principle Emissions	^E Max (keV)	^E eff (keV)	Dose Rate (μSv/h/GBq at 1m)	Shielding Required
Beta* (β)	330 (100%)	143	-	0.1cm Plexiglas, 0.05cm Aluminum
Gamma (γ) / X-rays	1,116	-	-	16cm Concrete, 3cm Lead
Alpha (α)	-	-	-	-
Neutron (n)	-	-	-	-

Progeny: Copper-65, Cu-65



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 Bodyx Skin Extremityx Neutron					
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 is the most readily					
available method to assess intake.					
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 Zn-65.			
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 Zn-65 behind lead shielding, lead bricks may be			
necessary. Use tools to handle Zn-65 sources and contaminated objects; avoid direct hand			
contact.			
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5. Control Levels						
Oral Ingestion Inhalation		n				
ALI (kBq)	ALI (kBq)	DAC (Bq/ml)				
14,800	11,100	0.0037				
Exemption Quantity (EQ):	370,000,000 Be	F				



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)