

## ZINC METAL MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

### SECTION 1. PRODUCT AND COMPANY IDENTIFICATION

**Product Identity:** Zinc Metal

*NOTE: In the form in which it is sold this product is not regulated. This Material Safety Data Sheet is provided for information purposes only.*

**Manufacturer:**

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

Emergency Telephone: 250-364-4214

**Supplier:**

Teck Metals Ltd.  
1500-120 Adelaide Street, W.  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5H 1T1

**MSDS Preparer:**

Teck Metals Ltd.  
3300 – 550 Burrard Street  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
V6C 0B3

**Date of Last Revision/Edit:** June 1, 2009.

**Product Use:** Zinc metal is used to coat steel for corrosion protection (galvanizing, electroplating, electrogalvanizing), as an alloying element in bronze, brass, aluminum and other metal alloys, for zinc die casting alloys, for zinc dry cell and zinc/air batteries, for the production of zinc sheet for architectural and coinage applications, as a reducing agent in organic chemistry and for other chemical applications.

### SECTION 2. COMPOSITION / INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS

Ingredient	Approximate Percent by Weight	CAS Number	Occupational Exposure Limits (OELs)		LD <sub>50</sub> / LC <sub>50</sub> Species and Route
Zinc	99+%	7440-66-6	OSHA PEL ACGIH TLV NIOSH REL	None established None established None established	No Data

NOTE: OELs for individual jurisdictions may differ from OSHA PELs. Check with local authorities for the applicable OELs in your jurisdiction. OSHA - Occupational Safety and Health Administration. ACGIH - American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists. NIOSH - National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. OEL – Occupational Exposure Limit. PEL – Permissible Exposure Limit. TLV – Threshold Limit Value. REL – Recommended Exposure Limit.

NOTE: While there is no established OEL for zinc as such, there are OELs for zinc oxide which may be formed during burning, welding or other fuming processes.

The OSHA PEL final rule limits for zinc oxide dust are 10 mg/m<sup>3</sup> (total) and 5 mg/m<sup>3</sup> (respirable); the OSHA PEL final rule limit for zinc oxide fume is 5 mg/m<sup>3</sup>. Note that the OSHA PEL final rule limits are currently non-enforceable due to a court decision. The OSHA PEL transitional limits therefore remain in force at present. They are 15 mg/m<sup>3</sup> (total) and 5 mg/m<sup>3</sup> (respirable) while the transitional PEL for zinc oxide fume is 5 mg/m<sup>3</sup>. The ACGIH TLV for zinc oxide is 2 mg/m<sup>3</sup> (respirable fraction) with a Short Term Exposure Limit (STEL) of 10 mg/m<sup>3</sup> (respirable fraction). The NIOSH REL for zinc oxide (dust or fume) is 5 mg/m<sup>3</sup> 10 hr TWA with a 15 mg/m<sup>3</sup> ceiling limit (15 minute sample) for zinc oxide dust and a 10 mg/m<sup>3</sup> STEL for zinc oxide fume (15 minute sample).

**Trade Names and Synonyms:** High Grade Zinc; Special High Grade Zinc; TADANAC® Zinc; C-CAST® Zinc; Zn

### SECTION 3. HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION

**Emergency Overview:** A lustrous bluish-silver metal that does not burn but may form explosive mixtures if dispersed in air as a fine powder. Contact with acids or alkalis generates flammable hydrogen gas which can accumulate in poorly-ventilated areas. Do NOT use water or foam in fire fighting. Apply dry chemical, sand or special powder extinguishing media. Zinc is relatively non-toxic and poses little immediate health hazard to personnel or the environment in an emergency situation.

**Potential Health Effects:** Pure zinc dust is relatively non-toxic to humans by inhalation. However, acute over-exposure to zinc oxide fume may cause metal fume fever, characterized by flu-like symptoms such as chills, fever, nausea, and vomiting. Ingestion of soluble salts may cause abdominal irritation resulting in nausea and vomiting. In most cases, dermal exposure to zinc or zinc compounds does not result in any noticeable toxic effects. Zinc is not listed as a carcinogen by OSHA, NTP, IARC, ACGIH or the EU. (see Toxicological Information, Section 11)

**Potential Environmental Effects:** In the form in which the product is sold, zinc metal does not represent a significant threat to the environment. However, extended exposure in the aquatic or terrestrial environments may lead to the release of zinc in a bioavailable form. (see Ecological Information, Section 12)

**EU Risk Phrase(s):** Not applicable - zinc is not listed as a dangerous substance.

## SECTION 4. FIRST AID MEASURES

**Eye Contact:** 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 5 minutes or until particle/dust is removed, while holding eyelid(s) open. If irritation persists, obtain medical attention. DO NOT attempt to manually remove anything stuck to the eye.

**Skin Contact:** No health effects expected. If irritation does occur, flush with lukewarm, gently flowing water for 5 minutes. If irritation persists, 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:** If symptoms are experienced remove source of contamination or move victim to fresh air. Obtain medical advice. NOTE: Metal fume fever may develop 3-10 hours after exposure. If symptoms of metal fume fever (flu-like symptoms) develop, obtain medical attention.

**Ingestion:** If swallowed, no specific intervention is indicated as this material is not likely to be hazardous by ingestion. However, 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. However, finely divided metallic dust or powder may form flammable or explosive dust clouds when dispersed in the air at high concentrations and exposed to heat, flame, or other ignition sources. Bulk dust in a damp state may heat spontaneously and ignite on exposure to air. Contact with acids and alkali hydroxides results in evolution of hydrogen gas which is potentially explosive. Mixtures with potassium chlorate or ammonium nitrate may explode on impact.

**Extinguishing Media:** Apply dry chemical, dry sand, or special powder extinguishing media. Do NOT use water, carbon dioxide or foam on molten metals. Water may be ineffective for extinguishing a fire but should be used to keep fire-exposed containers cool.

**Fire Fighting:** If possible, move material from fire area and cool material exposed to flame. Apply dry chemical, sand, or special powder extinguishing media. Zinc oxide fumes may evolve in fires. Fire fighters should 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.

**Flashpoint and Method:** Not Applicable.

**Upper and Lower Flammable Limit:** Lower Flammable Limit (Zinc Dust): 500 g/m<sup>3</sup>; Upper Flammable Limit: Not Applicable.

**Autoignition Temperature:** Approximately 680°C (dust cloud in air), 460°C (dust layer).

## SECTION 6. ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES

**Procedures for Cleanup:** Solid metal is recyclable. Vacuuming recommended for accumulated metal dust. Molten metal should be allowed to solidify prior to clean-up. Return uncontaminated spilled material to the process if possible. Place contaminated and non-recyclable material in suitable labeled containers for later disposal. Treat or dispose of waste material in accordance with all local, regional and national requirements, as applicable.

**Personal Precautions:** Protective clothing, gloves, and a respirator are recommended for persons responding to an accidental release (see also Section 8). Close-fitting safety goggles may be necessary in some circumstances to prevent eye contact with zinc dust or powder. Where molten metal is involved, wear heat-resistant gloves and suitable clothing for protection from hot-metal splash.

**Environmental Precautions:** Zinc in the metallic form has limited bioavailability and poses no immediate ecological risk. However, contamination of water and soil should be prevented.

## SECTION 7. HANDLING AND STORAGE

Store zinc in a DRY covered area, separate from incompatible materials. Zinc ingots suspected of containing moisture should be THOROUGHLY DRIED before being added to a molten bath. Ingots may contain cavities that collect moisture. Entrained moisture will expand explosively when immersed in a molten bath. 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. No special packaging materials are required.

**EU Safety Phrase(s):** Not applicable - zinc in ingot form is not listed as a dangerous substance.

## SECTION 8. EXPOSURE CONTROLS / PERSONAL PROTECTION

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

**Ventilation:** Use adequate local or general ventilation to maintain the concentration of zinc oxide 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. Where metallic dust particles of zinc metal are being collected and transported by a ventilation system, use a non-sparking, grounded ventilation system separate from other exhaust ventilation systems. Locate dust collectors and fans outdoors if possible and provide dust collectors with explosion vents or blow out panels.

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

## SECTION 9. PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

<b>Appearance:</b> Bluish-silver lustrous metal	<b>Odour:</b> None	<b>Physical State:</b> Solid	<b>pH:</b> Not Applicable
<b>Vapour Pressure:</b> 1 mm at 487°C Negligible at 20°C	<b>Vapour Density:</b> Not Applicable	<b>Boiling Point/Range:</b> 908° C	<b>Freezing/Melting Point/Range:</b> 420° C
<b>Specific Gravity:</b> 7.1	<b>Evaporation Rate:</b> Not Applicable	<b>Coefficient of Water/Oil Distribution:</b> Not Applicable	<b>Odour Threshold:</b> None
<b>Solubility:</b> Insoluble in Water			

## SECTION 10. STABILITY AND REACTIVITY

**Stability & Reactivity:** Massive metal is stable under normal temperatures and pressures. It slowly becomes covered with a white coating of a hydrated basic zinc carbonate on exposure to moist air. Fine, condensed zinc dust or powder may heat spontaneously and ignite on exposure to air when damp. Zinc metal will react with acids and strong alkalis to generate hydrogen gas. A violent, explosive reaction may occur when powdered zinc is heated with sulphur. Powdered zinc will become incandescent or ignite in the presence of fluorine, chlorine or bromine. Powdered zinc can also react explosively with halogenated hydrocarbons if heated. Mixtures with potassium chlorate or ammonium nitrate may explode on impact.

**Incompatibilities:** Contact with acids and alkalis will generate highly flammable hydrogen gas. Contact with acidic solutions of arsenic and antimony compounds may evolve highly toxic ARSINE or STIBINE gas. Incompatible with strong oxidizing agents such as chlorine, fluorine, bromine, sodium potassium or barium peroxide, sodium or potassium chlorate, chromium trioxide and fused ammonium nitrate. Also incompatible with elemental sulphur dust, halogenated hydrocarbons or chlorinated solvents and chlorinated rubber.

**Hazardous Decomposition Products:** High temperature operations such as oxy-acetylene cutting, electric arc welding or overheating a molten bath will generate zinc oxide fume which, on inhalation in sufficient quantity, can produce metal fume fever, a transient influenza-like illness.

## SECTION 11. TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION

**General:** Zinc, especially in the metal form, is relatively non-toxic. However, it can react with other materials, such as oxygen or acids, to form compounds that can be potentially toxic. The primary route of exposure would be through the generation and inhalation of zinc oxide fume from welding or burning or overheated melting pots.

**Acute:**

**Skin/Eye:** In most cases, dermal exposure to zinc or zinc compounds does not result in any noticeable toxic effects. Zinc metal is not chemically irritating to the eyes.

**Inhalation:** If excessive quantities of zinc oxide fume are inhaled, it can result in the condition called metal fume fever. The symptoms of metal fume fever will occur within 3 to 10 hours, and include immediate dryness and irritation of the throat, tightness of the chest and coughing, which 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. The symptoms are temporary and generally disappear, without medical intervention, within 24 to 48 hours of onset. There are no recognized complications, after effects, or chronic effects that result from this condition.

**Ingestion:** When ingested in excessive quantities, zinc can irritate the stomach resulting in nausea and vomiting.

**Chronic:** There is no chronic form of metal fume fever but in rare instances an acute incident may be followed by complaints such as bronchitis or pneumonia. Some workers may develop a short-term immunity (resistance) so that repeated exposure to zinc oxide fumes does not cause metal fume fever. This immunity (resistance) however is quickly lost after short absences from work (weekends or vacations). Workers exposed to finely-divided metallic zinc for up to 35 years revealed no acute or chronic illnesses attributable to zinc. Prolonged or repeated skin contact with zinc dust or powder may cause dryness, irritation and cracking (dermatitis) since zinc is astringent and may tend to draw moisture from the skin. Zinc dust 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).

## SECTION 12. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Zinc in the metallic form has limited bioavailability and poses no immediate ecological risk. However, its processing or extended exposure in the environment may result in the formation of bioavailable zinc compounds. In aquatic systems, zinc bioaccumulates in both plants and animals. In terrestrial systems, the mobility of zinc in soil is dependent on soil conditions, such as cation exchange capacity, pH, redox potential, and chemical species present in the soil. Zinc also bioaccumulates in terrestrial plants, vertebrates, and mammals, with plant uptake from soil dependent on the plant species, soil pH, and soil composition.

## SECTION 13. DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS

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

## SECTION 14. TRANSPORT INFORMATION

PROPER SHIPPING NAME ..... Not applicable – not regulated.  
U.S. DOT AND TRANSPORT CANADA HAZARD CLASSIFICATION .... Not applicable  
U.S. DOT AND TRANSPORT CANADA PID..... Not applicable  
MARINE POLLUTANT ..... No  
IMO CLASSIFICATION ..... Not regulated

## SECTION 15. REGULATORY INFORMATION

**U.S.**

INGREDIENT LISTED ON TSCA INVENTORY ..... Yes

HAZARDOUS UNDER HAZARD COMMUNICATION STANDARD ..... No

CERCLA SECTION 103 HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES ..... Zinc ..... Yes.....RQ: 1,000 lb. (454 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: ..... This product does not contain any toxic chemicals subject to the Toxic Release reporting requirements. However, potential by-products from working with this product - "Zinc (Fume or Dust)" CAS 7440-66-6 are reportable.

**CANADIAN:**

INGREDIENTS LISTED ON DOMESTIC SUBSTANCES LIST..... Yes

WHMIS CLASSIFICATION:..... Not applicable. Zinc is not a Controlled Product under CPR.

**EUROPEAN UNION:**

LISTED ON THE EUROPEAN INVENTORY OF EXISTING COMMERCIAL CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES (EINECS)..... Yes

EU CLASSIFICATION: ..... Not applicable. Zinc in ingot form is not listed as a dangerous substance.

**SECTION 16. OTHER INFORMATION**

The information in this Material 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.
- American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, 2006, Threshold Limit Values for Chemical Substances and Physical Agents and Biological Exposure Indices.
- American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, 2005, Guide to Occupational Exposure Values.
- Bretherick's Handbook of Reactive Chemical Hazards, 20th Anniversary Edition. (P. G. Urban, Ed), 1995.
- Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) Hamilton, Ontario, CHEMINFO Record No. 239 – Zinc (Last Revision 2006-01).
- European Economic Community, Commission Directives 91/155/EEC and 67/548/EEC.
- Industry Canada, SOR/88-66, Controlled Products Regulations, as amended.
- Merck & Co., Inc., 2001, The Merck Index, An Encyclopedia of Chemicals, Drugs, and Biologicals, Thirteenth Edition.
- National Library of Medicine, National Toxicology Information Program, 2003, Hazardous Substance Data Bank. (on-line version).
- Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee – Toxicity Summary for Zinc and Zinc Compounds, April 1992.
- Patty's Toxicology, Fifth Edition, 2001 E. Bingham, B. Cohnsen & CH Powell (Eds.).
- U.S. Department 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. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, August 2005, Toxicological Profile for Zinc.
- U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration, 1989, Code of Federal Regulations, Title 29, Part 1910.

**Notice to Reader**

Although reasonable precautions have been taken in the preparation of the data contained herein, it is offered solely for your information, consideration and investigation. Teck Metals Ltd. extends no warranty and assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of the content and expressly disclaims all liability for reliance thereon. This material safety data sheet provides guidelines for the safe handling and processing of this product; it does not and cannot advise on all possible situations; therefore, your specific use of this product should be evaluated to determine if additional precautions are required. Individuals exposed to this product should read and understand this information and be provided pertinent training prior to working with this product.