

Safety Summary

Polyoxyalkylene alkyl ether

(The number of carbon atoms in alkyl group is mainly 12 - 14, Number of moles of ethylene oxide (EO) 15 - <20, include a low mole of propylene oxide (PO).)

The document of the safety summary provides the safety information of the chemical substance to the general public. The safety summary is NOT intended to be an alternative document of Safety Data Sheet which is described from the recommendable detailed safety measures for each use. The safety summary is NOT intended to be an alternate document of the instructions for use nor the warning of consumer products including this substance. The contents of this summary are based on the laws, documents, information, and data available at present, without any warranty.

1. Chemical Identity

Category Name	Polyoxyalkylene alkyl ether (The number of carbon atoms in alkyl group is mainly 12 - 14, Number of moles of ethylene oxide (EO) 15 - <20, include a low mole of propylene oxide (PO).)
Substance Name	Polyoxyalkylene(C2 - 3) alkyl(C12 - 14) ether(15 - <20)
CAS Number	9002-92-0, 68439-50-9, 68439-51-0

2. Product Uses and Benefits

Polyoxyalkylene alkyl ether (AE) is a non-ionic surfactant. It is widely used as consumer products contained in laundry detergents, kitchen detergents, shampoos, body soaps, and others.

For the industrial use, AE is mainly used as raw materials on aquatic detergent, emulsifier, adjuster of emulsion polymerization, and others.

3. Physical/Chemical Properties

As the representative structure, the physical and chemical properties of C12 EO15 - 18 with the numbers of carbon of the alkyl group of 12 and with numbers of moles of ethylene oxide (EO) of 15 and 18, were calculated using computer software EPI suite 4.1 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as shown below.

Physical and chemical properties of C12 EO15 -18

Property	Number of moles of EO	
	15	18
Molecular weight	847.1	979.3
Boiling point (°C)	814.0	919.8
Melting point (°C)	349.8	349.8
Vapor pressure (Pa) 25°C	4.5×10^{-22}	1.3×10^{-25}
Water solubility (mg/L)	36166	167090
Octanol/water partition coefficient (Log Kow)	0.65	-0.17
Soil adsorption coefficient (Log Koc)	8.25	10.60

4. Human Health Safety Assessment

Consumer: The exposure to AE is at safe levels.

Worker: The repeated exposure of AE does not cause any toxic effects

Effect Assessment	Result
Acute Toxicity oral/ dermal	Harmful if swallowed No acute toxicity after dermal exposure
Irritation skin/ eye	Undiluted substance causes skin irritation Causes serious eye damage
Sensitization	Based on the available data, unlikely to cause allergic skin reaction
Toxicity after repeated exposure	Unlikely to cause any toxic effects through prolonged or repeated oral exposure in practical use
Mutagenicity	Based on the available data, unlikely to cause genetic defects
Carcinogenicity	Based on the available data, unlikely to cause cancer
Toxicity for reproduction	Based on the available data, unlikely to be damaging to fertility or the unborn child

5. Environmental Safety Assessment

The test results with fish, aquatic invertebrates and algae suggest that AE could cause a toxicity for aquatic organism. However, AE unlikely to persist in the environment because of showing the readily biodegradation. AE does not bioaccumulate in the food chain.

Effect Assessment	Result
Aquatic Toxicity	AE suggests to cause toxicity for aquatic organism
Biodegradation	Readily biodegradable
PBT/ vPvB conclusion*	Not persistent in the environment, not bioaccumulating in organisms and not toxic nor very persistent and very bioaccumulating

*PBT=Persistent, Bioaccumulative and Toxic

vPvB=Very Persistent and Very Bioaccumulative

6. Exposure

- **Consumer**

The consumer can come into contact with the substance in use of the detergent, but the concentration of AE in use is below the level which would give rise harmful effects of concern. When it's used as the recommended use, consumer should always read product information before use and follow the label/ use instructions.

- **Worker**

The exposure can occur either in AE manufacturing facilities or in the various industrial facilities when AE is used. Those workers in industrial operations during maintenance, sampling, testing, or other procedures could be exposed with AE. Only qualified and trained workers handle the undiluted substance. The manufacturing facilities offer thorough training program for employees and appropriate work processes, as well as safety equipment (goggles and gloves) in place to prevent an unnecessary exposure. Safety showers and eye-wash stations are accessible nearby. Workers are required to be trained in accordance with the safety measures in the Safety Data Sheet.

- **Environment**

Since this substance is used extensively, it is discharged to waste water treatment plants from industrial sites such as manufacturing, preparation, handling, storage and use of the substance as well as from consumer households. However, the substance is readily biodegradable, so that it is removed efficiently in waste water treatment plants. The substance is biologically degraded in the surface water and is rapidly removed even if it is remained slightly in the waste water. Hence, the chronic exposure to aquatic organisms of the substance is unlikely to occur. Furthermore, the substance does not accumulate in the food chain, so that there is no concern of human exposure through environmental pathway.

7. Risk management recommendations

When you use the substance, make sure to be measured the adequate ventilation. Always use appropriate chemical-resistant gloves to protect your hands and skin and always wear eye protection equipment. Do not eat, drink or smoke where the substance is handled,

processed or stored. Wash hands and skin after contact with the substance. When the substance attaches to skin (or hair), take off the contaminated clothes. Wash with a large amounts of water and soap. When it causes your skin irritation, consult doctor (medical diagnosis/therapy). If the substance gets into your eyes, rinse your eyes thoroughly for several minutes. If you wear contact lens, and you can take it off easily, take it off and continue to rinse your eyes. Contact to a doctor immediately.

Waste water containing the substance must be passed the waste water treatment plants in order to remove the substance. No specific measures are needed, because it is not expected to be released into the air.

8. Regulatory Information/Classification and Labeling

Under GHS classification chemical substances are classified in hazards for physical properties, human health and environment. The hazard information for industrial products are transmitted via specific labels and Safety Data Sheet. GHS offers the standardization for hazard communication. The subjects who could be assumed to be exposed to the substance, workers, consumers, transport workers, and emergency responders, can better understand the hazards of the chemicals in use through the transmission.

Labeling according to UN GHS

UN GHS is the basis for country specific GHS labeling.

Polyoxyalkylene (C2 - 3) alkyl (C12 - 14) ether (15 - <20) may be assigned to following GHS classification.



Classification and labelling information

Acute Tox. 4

Skin Irrit. 2

Eye Dam. 1

Aquatic Acute 2

Hazard Statements:

H302: Harmful if swallowed

H315: Causes skin irritation

H318: Causes serious eye damage

H401: Toxic to aquatic life

Signal Word

Danger

The laws of manufacturing, sale, transport, use and disposal are different among countries or areas. Details are referred to Safety Data Sheet provided by the supplier.

9. Conclusion

Though AE is suggested to cause toxicity to aquatic organisms, there is no concern to the environmental organisms due to the rapid biodegradation of AE. In the PBT/vPvB assessments for AE, the substance is not applicable to PBT/vPvB. Contact with the undiluted AE may cause irritation to the skin and serious damage to the eyes. When handling the substance, workers should follow the standard safety measures and refer to the Safety Data Sheet. Consumers will usually not come into contact with the substance bulk and the substance is used diluted products, therefore, it is considered that AE gives rise no hazardous effects to human health.

10. Contact

For further information on this substance or Safety Summaries in general, please contact us.

Name	Kao Corporation
URL	https://ssl.kao.com/en/chemical/

11. Glossary

Acute Toxicity	Adverse effects that result from a single exposure
Biodegradation	Biological degradation of a substance in environments
Bioaccumulation	Accumulation of substances in environments
Carcinogenicity	Action influence to cause a cancer
Toxicity after repeated exposure	Adverse effects that result from repeated exposure
GHS	Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
Hazard	Hazardous property for human health or environments
Mutagenicity	Effects to induce gene mutations
Toxicity for reproduction	Adverse effects for teratogenicity, embryotoxicity, and reproductivity
Sensitization	Inducibility of allergy

12. Date of Issue

May 1, 2015