

CELLULAR PATHOLOGY
FORMALIN – USER INFORMATION
INFORMATION SHEET

Q-Pulse No	PHS7
Version	1
Site	MPH/YDH ESL

10% FORMAL SALINE (FORMALIN) and 10% NEUTRAL BUFFERED FORMALIN - INFORMATION FOR USERS

USE: 10% Formal Saline and 10% Neutral Buffered Formalin are supplied by the Histology Department for the preservation (fixation) of tissue specimens for Histological investigation. (**PDR4B8** for making up formalin).

COMPOSITION:

10% Formal Saline -	Formaldehyde solution	10%
	Sodium Chloride	0.9% in water
10% Neutral Buffered Formalin -	Formaldehyde	4-5%
	Methanol	1%
	Disodium Phosphate	0.65%
	Monosodium Phosphate	0.35% in water

Formaldehyde is a colourless, pungent, heavier than air, irritating gas. Formaldehyde solution (Formalin) is a saturated solution of Formaldehyde gas in water (37% w/w)

HAZARDS: 10% Formaldehyde has limited evidence of a carcinogenic effect. Harmful by inhalation, ingestion and skin contact, irritating to respiratory system. It may cause skin sensitisation.

PRECAUTIONS:

Use: In well ventilated areas, preferably over a sink. Wear disposable gloves (to standard EN374), if there is a possibility of skin contact. Wear eye protection if there is a possibility of splashing.

Store: At room temperature, in well sealed containers.

Spillage (PHS5B2): **Small** spillages not contained within a sink area, should be mopped up with a suitable absorbing material such as the supplied neutralising Formalizer pads and then placed into a sealed clinical waste bag or the waste bag provided. (if the spill is a leaking pot already contained within a sealed specimen bag place in another bag and transport to Histology). Small spillages contained within a sink area should be flushed away with a large volume of water.

Larger spillages should be contained using suitable spillage granules, (following the guidelines supplied with the granules). When the granules have absorbed and neutralised the formalin spill, they should be disposed of in a clinical waste bag.

If the spill is in an enclosed area such as a transport vehicle, open all windows and ventilate the area before attending to the spillage.

PPE - GLOVES AND EYE PROTECTION MUST ALWAYS BE WORN WHEN DEALING WITH FORMALIN SPILLAGES

A suitable general formalin spillage granules and Formalizer pads may be obtained from VWR Chemicals.
See overleaf for First aid measures

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FIRST AID MEASURES:

EXPOSURE ROUTE	SYMPTOM	TREATMENT
Inhalation	Coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath,	Remove from exposure, apply mouth to mouth or mechanical ventilation if necessary. In severe cases, or if recovery is not rapid or complete seek medical attention.
Skin contact	Irritation, reddening.	Drench the skin with plenty of water. Remove contaminated clothing and wash before reuse. If large area of skin is damaged or if irritation persists seek medical attention.
Eye contact	Blistering, reddening, watering.	Irrigate thoroughly with water with the eyelid held wide open. Obtain medical attention.
Ingestion	Stomach upset, nausea, vomiting.	Wash out mouth with water. DO NOT induce vomiting. If patient is conscious give water to drink. Seek medical attention.

For further information or to request data sheets (MSDS), please contact:

Taunton 01823 342287 or Yeovil 01935 384727