Material Safety Data Sheet
Ethyl ether

ACC# 90868

Section 1 - Chemical Product and Company Identification

**MSDS Name:** Ethyl ether
**Synonyms:** Ethane, 1,1'-oxybis-; Anesthetic ether; Diethyl ether; Ethoxyethane; Diethyl oxide; Ethyl ether; Ether; Ethyl oxide.

**Company Identification:**
Fisher Scientific
1 Reagent Lane
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410
**For information, call:** 201-796-7100
**Emergency Number:** 201-796-7100
**For CHEMTREC assistance, call:** 800-424-9300
**For International CHEMTREC assistance, call:** 703-527-3887

Section 2 - Composition, Information on Ingredients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAS#</th>
<th>Chemical Name</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>EINECS/ELINCS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60-29-7</td>
<td>Ethyl ether</td>
<td>&gt;99</td>
<td>200-467-2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Section 3 - Hazards Identification

**EMERGENCY OVERVIEW**

Appearance: APHA: 10 max clear liquid. Flash Point: -45 deg C.
**Danger!** Extremely flammable liquid and vapor. Vapor may cause flash fire. Breathing vapors may cause drowsiness and dizziness. Causes eye irritation. Repeated exposure may cause skin dryness or cracking. Aspiration hazard if swallowed. Can enter lungs and cause damage. May be harmful if swallowed. May form explosive peroxides. This material has been reported to be susceptible to autooxidation and therefore should be classified as peroxidizable. Air sensitive. Light sensitive. Hgyroscopic (absorbs moisture from the air). May be habit forming.

**Target Organs:** Central nervous system, respiratory system, eyes, skin.

**Potential Health Effects**

Eye: Causes moderate eye irritation. Causes redness and pain.
Skin: Causes skin irritation. May be absorbed through the skin. Repeated or prolonged exposure may cause drying and cracking of the skin.
Ingestion: Aspiration hazard. Symptoms may include: headache, excitement, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, stupor, and coma. May cause central nervous system depression, characterized by excitement, followed by headache, dizziness, drowsiness, and nausea. Advanced stages may cause collapse, unconsciousness, coma and possible death due to respiratory failure. Aspiration of material into the lungs may cause chemical pneumonitis, which may be fatal.
Inhalation: Exposure to high concentrations may produce narcosis, nausea and loss of consciousness. Inhalation of vapors may cause drowsiness and dizziness.

**Chronic:** Prolonged or repeated skin contact may cause defatting and dermatitis. Prolonged or repeated exposure can cause psychic abnormalities such as anxiety, depression and excitability. Laboratory experiments have resulted in
mutagenic effects. Prolonged exposure to high vapor concentrations may cause eye injury. Repeated exposures may
be habit forming. Prolonged or repeated inhalation or ingestion may result in liver and kidney

### Section 4 - First Aid Measures

**Eyes:** In case of contact, immediately flush eyes with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes. Get medical aid.

**Skin:** In case of contact, immediately flush skin with plenty of water. Remove contaminated clothing and shoes. Get medical aid. Wash clothing before reuse.

**Ingestion:** Potential for aspiration if swallowed. Get medical aid immediately. Do not induce vomiting unless directed to do so by medical personnel. Never give anything by mouth to an unconscious person. If vomiting occurs naturally, have victim lean forward.

**Inhalation:** If inhaled, remove to fresh air. If not breathing, give artificial respiration. If breathing is difficult, give oxygen. Get medical aid.

**Notes to Physician:** Persons with kidney disease, chronic respiratory disease, liver disease, or skin disease may be at increased risk from exposure to this substance. Alcoholic beverage consumption may enhance the toxic effects of this substance. Treat symptomatically and supportively.

### Section 5 - Fire Fighting Measures

**General Information:** As in any fire, wear a self-contained breathing apparatus in pressure-demand, MSHA/NIOSH (approved or equivalent), and full protective gear. Vapors may form an explosive mixture with air. Extremely flammable. Material will readily ignite at room temperature. Use water spray to keep fire-exposed containers cool. Water may be ineffective. Material is lighter than water and a fire may be spread by the use of water. Containers may explode in the heat of a fire. May form explosive peroxides. Will be easily ignited by heat, sparks or flame. May reignite after fire is extinguished. Vapors are heavier than air and may travel to a source of ignition and flash back. Vapors can spread along the ground and collect in low or confined areas. This liquid floats on water and may travel to a source of ignition and spread fire.

**Extinguishing Media:** For small fires, use dry chemical, carbon dioxide, water spray or alcohol-resistant foam. Water may be ineffective. For large fires, use water spray, fog or alcohol-resistant foam. Do NOT use straight streams of water. Cool containers with flooding quantities of water until well after fire is out.

**Flash Point:** -45 deg C (-49.00 deg F)

**Autoignition Temperature:** 180-190 deg C

**Explosion Limits, Lower:** 1.9 vol %

**Upper:** 36.0 vol %

**NFPA Rating:** (estimated) Health: 1; Flammability: 4; Instability: 1

### Section 6 - Accidental Release Measures

**General Information:** Use proper personal protective equipment as indicated in Section 8.

**Spills/Leaks:** Absorb spill with inert material (e.g. vermiculite, sand or earth), then place in suitable container. Avoid runoff into storm sewers and ditches which lead to waterways. Remove all sources of ignition. Use a spark-proof tool. Place under an inert atmosphere. A vapor suppressing foam may be used to reduce vapors.

### Section 7 - Handling and Storage

**Handling:** Wash thoroughly after handling. Remove contaminated clothing and wash before reuse. Ground and bond containers when transferring material. Avoid contact with eyes, skin, and clothing. Empty containers retain product residue, (liquid and/or vapor), and can be dangerous. Take precautionary measures against static discharges. Keep container tightly closed. Keep away from heat, sparks and flame. Handle under an inert atmosphere. If peroxide formation is suspected, do not open or move container. Do not pressurize, cut, weld, braze, solder, drill, grind, or expose empty containers to heat, sparks or open flames. Use only with adequate ventilation. Avoid breathing vapor.

**Storage:** Keep away from sources of ignition. Do not store near combustible materials. Store in a tightly closed
container. Store in a cool, dry, well-ventilated area away from incompatible substances. Store protected from light. Store under an inert atmosphere. Keep away from oxidizing agents. Containers should be dated when opened and tested periodically for the presence of peroxides. Should crystals form in a peroxidizable liquid, peroxidation may have occurred and the product should be considered extremely dangerous. In this instance, the container should only be opened remotely by professionals. Store at room temperature or below. Do not exceed 86°F. Do not open unless contents are at 72°F or below for at least 24 hours. Ethyl ether may form explosive peroxides on long standing or after exposure to air or light. All peroxidizable substances should be stored away from heat and light and be protected from ignition sources.

Section 8 - Exposure Controls, Personal Protection

**Engineering Controls:** Use process enclosure, local exhaust ventilation, or other engineering controls to control airborne levels below recommended exposure limits. Use explosion-proof ventilation equipment. Facilities storing or utilizing this material should be equipped with an eyewash facility and a safety shower.

**Exposure Limits**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chemical Name</th>
<th>ACGIH</th>
<th>NIOSH</th>
<th>OSHA - Final PELs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ethyl ether</td>
<td>400 ppm TWA; 500 ppm STEL</td>
<td>1900 ppm IDLH</td>
<td>400 ppm TWA; 1200 mg/m3 TWA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OSHA Vacated PELs:** Ethyl ether: 400 ppm TWA; 1200 mg/m3 TWA

**Personal Protective Equipment**

**Eyes:** Wear chemical splash goggles.

**Skin:** Wear appropriate protective gloves to prevent skin exposure.

**Clothing:** Wear appropriate protective clothing to prevent skin exposure.

**Respirators:** A respiratory protection program that meets OSHA’s 29 CFR 1910.134 and ANSI Z88.2 requirements or European Standard EN 149 must be followed whenever workplace conditions warrant respirator use.

Section 9 - Physical and Chemical Properties

**Physical State:** Clear liquid

**Appearance:** APHA: 10 max

**Odor:** sweetish odor - aromatic odor

**pH:** Not available.

**Vapor Pressure:** 442 mm Hg @ 20 deg C

**Vapor Density:** 2.55 (Air=1)

**Evaporation Rate:** 37.5 (Butyl acetate=1)

**Viscosity:** 0.2448 cp @20 deg C

**Boiling Point:** 34.6 deg C

**Freezing/Melting Point:** -116.3 deg C

**Decomposition Temperature:** Not available.

**Solubility:** Slightly soluble.

**Specific Gravity/Density:** < .7079 g/ml

**Molecular Formula:** C₄H₁₀O

**Molecular Weight:** 74.12

Section 10 - Stability and Reactivity

**Chemical Stability:** Under normal storage conditions, peroxidizable compounds can form and accumulate peroxides which may explode when subjected to heat or shock. This material is most hazardous when peroxide levels are concentrated by distillation or evaporation.

**Conditions to Avoid:** Light, ignition sources, exposure to air, electrical sparks, exposure to flame, heat.

**Incompatibilities with Other Materials:** Strong oxidizing agents, strong acids.

**Hazardous Decomposition Products:** Carbon monoxide, irritating and toxic fumes and gases, carbon dioxide, peroxides.
Hazardous Polymerization: Will not occur.

Section 11 - Toxicological Information

RTECS#: 
CAS# 60-29-7: K15775000 
LD50/LC50: 
CAS# 60-29-7:  
Draize test, rabbit, eye: 100 mg Moderate;  
Inhalation, mouse: LC50 = 31000 ppm/30M;  
Oral, mouse: LD50 = 1760 mg/kg;  
Oral, rat: LD50 = 1215 mg/kg;  
Skin, rabbit: LD50 = >20 mL/kg;  

Carcinogenicity: 
CAS# 60-29-7: Not listed by ACGIH, IARC, NTP, or CA Prop 65.  

Epidemiology: No information found  
Teratogenicity: No information found  
Reproductive Effects: No information found  
Mutagenicity: DNA Repair: Escherichia coli = 35670 ug/well/16H.; DNA Inhibition: Mouse, Embryo = 2850 mg/L.;  
Mutation Test Systems - not otherwise specified: Hamster, Fibroblast = 1 pph. 
Neurotoxicity: No information found 
Other Studies: 

Section 12 - Ecological Information

Ecotoxicity: Fish: Fathead Minnow: LC50 = 2600 mg/L; 96 Hr; Flow-through bioassayFish: Bluegill/Sunfish: LC50 >10000 mg/L; 96 Hr; Static bioassayBacteria: Phytobacterium phosphoreum: EC50 = 5625 mg/L; 15 min; Microtox test If ethyl ether is released to soil, it will be subject to volatilization. It will be expected to exhibit high mobility in soil and, therefore, it may leach to groundwater. If ethyl ether is released to water, it will not be expected to significantly adsorb to sediment or suspended particulate matter, bioconcentrate in aquatic organisms or hydrolyze. 
Environmental: Ethyl ether will not significantly photooxidize via reaction with photochemically produced hydroxyl radicals in the water. Ethyl ether in surface water will be subject to rapid volatilization with estimated half-lives of 3.1 hr and 1.5 days. It will not be expected to hydrolyze in water or soil. If ethyl ether is released to the atmosphere, it will be expected to exist almost entirely in the vapor phase. It will be susceptible to photooxidation via vapor phase reaction with photochemically produced hydroxyl radicals with a half-life of 29 hours. 
Physical: No information available. 
Other: No information available. 

Section 13 - Disposal Considerations

Chemical waste generators must determine whether a discarded chemical is classified as a hazardous waste. US EPA guidelines for the classification determination are listed in 40 CFR Parts 261.3. Additionally, waste generators must consult state and local hazardous waste regulations to ensure complete and accurate classification. 
RCRA P-Series: None listed. 
RCRA U-Series: 
CAS# 60-29-7: waste number U117 (Ignitable waste). 

Section 14 - Transport Information
**Shipping Name:** DIETHYL ETHER
**Hazard Class:** 3
**UN Number:** UN1155
**Packing Group:** I

---

**Section 15 - Regulatory Information**

**US FEDERAL**

**TSCA**
CAS# 60-29-7 is listed on the TSCA inventory.

**Health & Safety Reporting List**
None of the chemicals are on the Health & Safety Reporting List.

**Chemical Test Rules**
None of the chemicals in this product are under a Chemical Test Rule.

**Section 12b**
None of the chemicals are listed under TSCA Section 12b.

**TSCA Significant New Use Rule**
None of the chemicals in this material have a SNUR under TSCA.

**CERCLA Hazardous Substances and corresponding RQs**
CAS# 60-29-7: 100 lb final RQ; 45.4 kg final RQ

**SARA Section 302 Extremely Hazardous Substances**
None of the chemicals in this product have a TPQ.

**SARA Codes**
CAS # 60-29-7: immediate, fire, sudden release of pressure, reactive.

**Section 313**
No chemicals are reportable under Section 313.

**Clean Air Act:**
This material does not contain any hazardous air pollutants.
This material does not contain any Class 1 Ozone depletors.
This material does not contain any Class 2 Ozone depletors.

**Clean Water Act:**
None of the chemicals in this product are listed as Hazardous Substances under the CWA.
None of the chemicals in this product are listed as Priority Pollutants under the CWA.
None of the chemicals in this product are listed as Toxic Pollutants under the CWA.

**OSHA:**
None of the chemicals in this product are considered highly hazardous by OSHA.

**STATE**
CAS# 60-29-7 can be found on the following state right to know lists: California, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Massachusetts.

**California Prop 65**
California No Significant Risk Level: None of the chemicals in this product are listed.

**European/International Regulations**

**European Labeling in Accordance with EC Directives**

**Hazard Symbols:**
XN F+

**Risk Phrases:**
R 12 Extremely flammable.
R 19 May form explosive peroxides.
R 22 Harmful if swallowed.
R 66 Repeated exposure may cause skin dryness or cracking.
R 67 Vapours may cause drowsiness and dizziness.

**Safety Phrases:**
S 16 Keep away from sources of ignition - No smoking.
S 29 Do not empty into drains.
S 33 Take precautionary measures against static discharges.
S 9 Keep container in a well-ventilated place.
WGK (Water Danger/Protection)  
CAS# 60-29-7: 1

Canada - DSL/NDSL  
CAS# 60-29-7 is listed on Canada’s DSL List.

Canada - WHMIS  
This product has a WHMIS classification of B2. This product has been classified in accordance with the hazard criteria of the Controlled Products Regulations and the MSDS contains all of the information required by those regulations.

Canadian Ingredient Disclosure List  
CAS# 60-29-7 is listed on the Canadian Ingredient Disclosure List.

Section 16 - Additional Information

MSDS Creation Date: 6/02/1999  
Revision #8 Date: 3/15/2007

The information above is believed to be accurate and represents the best information currently available to us. However, we make no warranty of merchantability or any other warranty, express or implied, with respect to such information, and we assume no liability resulting from its use. Users should make their own investigations to determine the suitability of the information for their particular purposes. In no event shall Fisher be liable for any claims, losses, or damages of any third party or for lost profits or any special, indirect, incidental, consequential or exemplary damages, howsoever arising, even if Fisher has been advised of the possibility of such damages.