Standard Operating Procedure

Nitric Acid

*This is an SOP template and is not complete until: 1) lab specific information is entered into the box below 2) lab specific protocol/procedure is added to the protocol/procedure section and   
3) SOP has been signed and dated by the PI and relevant lab personnel.*

Print a copy and insert into your   
*Laboratory Safety Manual* and *Chemical Hygiene Plan*.   
Refer to instructions for assistance.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Department:** | Click here to enter text. |
| **Date SOP was written:** | Click here to enter a date. |
| **Date SOP was approved by PI/lab supervisor:** | Click here to enter a date. |
| **Principal Investigator:** | Click here to enter text. |
| **Internal Lab Safety Coordinator/Lab Manager:** | Click here to enter text. |
| **Lab Phone:** | Click here to enter text. |
| **Office Phone:** | Click here to enter text. |
| **Emergency Contact:** | Click here to enter text. |
| *(Name and Phone Number)* |
| **Location(s) covered by this SOP:** | Click here to enter text. |
| *(Building/Room Number)* |

**Type of SOP:** ☐ Process ☒Hazardous Chemical ☐ Hazardous Class

**Purpose**

Nitric acid (also known as aqua fortis) is an extremely corrosive acid and strong oxidizing agent. It may be harmful if ingested, inhaled, or absorbed through the skin. It can cause severe skin and eye burns resulting in irreversible damage. It is extremely destructive to the tissue of the mucous membranes and the upper respiratory tract. The main use of nitric acid is in the production of agricultural fertilizers. Its other uses include the production of nylon precursors, explosives, and rocket fuel.

**Physical & Chemical Properties/Definition of Chemical Group**

CAS#: 7697-37-2

Class: **Corrosive, oxidizer**

Molecular Formula: HNO3

Form (physical state): Liquid

Color: Colorless, light yellow

Boiling point: 83.9-100 °C

**Potential Hazards/Toxicity**

Nitric acid is an oxidizer that may intensify fires. Fire conditions may cause formation of hazardous nitrogen oxides. Can react violently with organic chemicals. Nitric acid may be harmful if inhaled, ingested, or absorbed through the skin. It is extremely destructive to the tissue of the mucous membranes and upper respiratory tract. Causes severe skin and eye burns. May cause blindness and permanent eye damage. Inhalation may cause spasms, inflammation and edema of the bronchi or larynx, and pneumonitis. Other symptoms include burning sensation, coughing, wheezing, laryngitis, shortness of breath, headache, nausea, vomiting, and pulmonary edema. Effects may be delayed. Large doses may cause conversion of hemoglobin to methemoglobin, producing cyanosis or a drastic fall in blood pressure, leading to collapse, coma, and possibly death. Chronic exposure may cause erosion of the teeth, jaw necrosis, and kidney damage.

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

**Respirator Protection**

Use a full-face respirator with multi-purpose combination (US) respirator cartridges as a backup to engineering controls. If the respirator is the sole means of protection, use a full-face supplied air respirator.

Respirators should be used only under any of the following circumstances:

* As a last line of defense (i.e., after engineering and administrative controls have been exhausted).
* When Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) has exceeded or when there is a possibility that PEL will be exceeded.
* Regulations require the use of a respirator.
* An employer requires the use of a respirator.
* There is potential for harmful exposure due to an atmospheric contaminant (in the absence of PEL)
* As PPE in the event of a chemical spill clean-up process

Lab personnel intending to use/wear a respirator mask must be trained and fit-tested by ORS and should contact occhealt@uga.edu. This is a UGA requirement described in more detail in the [UGA Respiratory Protection Plan](https://esd.uga.edu/sites/default/files/respiratoryprotection.pdf) and supported by the [Office of Research Occupational Health and Safety Program](https://research.uga.edu/ohsp/).

**Hand Protection**

Handle with gloves. Viton gloves are recommended. Nitrile gloves are NOT recommended for concentrated (>70%) nitric acid according to the Ansell Chemical Resistance Guide.

NOTE: Consult with your preferred glove manufacturer to ensure that the gloves you plan on using are compatible with nitric acid.

Refer to glove selection chart from the links below:

<http://www.ansellpro.com/download/Ansell_8thEditionChemicalResistanceGuide.pdf>

OR

<http://www.allsafetyproducts.biz/page/74172>

OR

<http://www.showabestglove.com/site/default.aspx>

OR

<http://www.mapaglove.com/>

**Eye Protection**

ANSI approved, tight-fitting safety glasses/goggles. Face shields are also recommended.

**Skin and Body Protection**

Flame resistant lab coat, long pants, and closed-toe shoes. Safety apron also recommended.

**Hygiene Measures**

Avoid contact with skin, eyes and clothing. Wash hands before breaks and immediately after handling the product.

**Engineering Controls**

Chemical fume hood. Good ventilation.

**First Aid Procedures**

**If inhaled**

Move person into fresh air. If not breathing, give artificial respiration. Consult a physician.

**In case of skin contact**

Wash off with soap and plenty of water for at least 15 minutes while removing contaminated clothing. Consult a physician.

**In case of eye contact**

Rinse thoroughly with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes lifting upper and lower eyelids and removing contact lenses. Consult a physician. Continue rinsing eyes during transport to hospital.

**If swallowed**

Do not induce vomiting. Never give anything by mouth to an unconscious person. Rinse mouth with water. Consult a physician.

**Special Handling and Storage Requirements**

**Precautions for safe handling:** Avoid contact with skin, eyes, and clothing. Avoid inhalation and ingestion. Keep away from heat and sources of ignition- No smoking.

**Conditions for safe storage:** Keep container tightly closed in a dry and well-ventilated area. Store in original container away from direct sunlight. Opened containers must be carefully resealed and stored upright to prevent leakage. Store away from combustible materials. Avoid alkali metals, reducing agents, cyanides, aldehydes, powdered metals, organic materials, ammonia, acetic anhydride, acetonitrile, alcohols, and acrylonitrile. Store segregated from organic chemicals.

**Spill and Accident Procedure**

**Chemical Spill Dial 911**

**24-7 On-Call Response to Research, Environment, Health or Safety Concerns Dial 2-5561 from a campus phone or 706-542-5561 from a non-campus line.**

**Spill** – Follow the procedures set out in the [UGA Chemical and Laboratory Safety Manual.](http://research.uga.edu/docs/units/safety/manuals/Chemical-Laboratory-Safety-Manual.pdf)

[If there are any chemical-specific protocols for responding to a spill, insert them here or mark “none”:]

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# **Medical Emergency Dial 911**

**Life Threatening Emergency, After Hours, Weekends And Holidays** – Dial **911** or the emergency phone numbers listed at the beginning of the UGA Chemical and Laboratory Safety Manual

*Note: All incidents that result in an injury or property damage must be reported to ORS / ESD using a University Incident/Accident Report.*

**Non-Life Threatening Emergency** – Follow the instructions in the UGA Chemical and Laboratory Safety Manual.

*Note: All incidents that result in an injury or property damage must be reported to ORS / ESD using a University Incident/Accident Report.*

**Decontamination/Waste Disposal Procedure**

**For general hazardous waste disposal procedures, see Appendix H of the UGA Chemical and Laboratory Safety Manual.**

**Chemical Specific Procedures: [to be inserted or marked as “none”]**

Wearing proper PPE, decontaminate equipment and bench tops using soap and water. Dispose of the used chemical and contaminated disposables as hazardous waste.

**Safety Data Sheet (SDS) Location**

UGA personnel can access Online SDS through a link in the upper left corner of the ESD home page (<https://esd.uga.edu>) and logging in by using their UGA email user name and password.

**Protocol/Procedure (Add lab specific Protocol/Procedure here)**

Click here to enter text.

**NOTE**

Any deviation from this SOP requires approval from PI.

**Documentation of Training** (signature of all users is required)

* Prior to conducting any work with nitric acid, designated personnel must provide training to his/her laboratory personnel specific to the hazards involved in working with this substance, work area decontamination, and emergency procedures.
* The Principal Investigator must provide his/her laboratory personnel with a copy of this SOP and access to the SDS provided by the manufacturer.
* The Principal Investigator must ensure that his/her laboratory personnel have attended appropriate laboratory safety training or refresher training within the last 12 months.

I have read and understand the content of this SOP:

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| **Name** | **Signature** | **Date** |
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