



**Essroc**  
Italcementi Group

3251 Bath Pike  
Nazareth, Pa. 18064

## MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

### Section 1 - IDENTIFICATION

**Product Name:** Portland Cement

**CAS Reg. No.:** 65997-15-1

**Chemical Name and Synonyms:** Portland Cement. Portland Cement is also known as hydraulic cement and cement.

**MSDS Information:** This Material Safety Data Sheet was produced in September 1997 and replaces any prior versions.

**Chemical Family:** Calcium compounds. Calcium silicate compounds and other calcium compounds containing iron and aluminum make up the majority of this product. Major products include:

$3\text{CaO}\cdot\text{SiO}_2$	Tricalcium silicate
$2\text{CaO}\cdot\text{SiO}_2$	Dicalcium silicate
$3\text{CaO}\cdot\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$	Tricalcium Aluminate
$4\text{CaO}\cdot\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3\cdot\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$	Tetracalcium aluminoferrate
$\text{CaSO}_4\cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$	Calcium sulfate dihydrate or Gypsum

**Formula:** This product consists of finely ground portland cement clinker mixed with a small amount of calcium sulfate dihydrate (gypsum).

**Informational Phone Numbers:** (800) 437-7762 Customer Service-Nazareth, Pa.  
(800) 336-0366 Customer Service-Speed, IN.

**Emergency Contact Information:** (800) 424-9300 Chemtrec

**MSDS Prepared By:** Essroc MSDS Development Committee  
(610) 837-6725  
October 1997

### Section 2 - COMPONENTS

#### Hazardous Ingredients:

Portland cement (CAS# 65997-15-1) - approximately 90 to 95% by weight  
 ACGIH TLV-TWA (1995-1996) = 10 mg total dust/m<sup>3</sup>  
 OSHA PEL (8-hour TWA) = 50 million particles/ft<sup>3</sup>  
 LD50 = Not Established  
 LC50 = TWA 50 mppcf

Gypsum (CAS# 7778-18-9) - approximately 2 to 5% by weight

ACGIH TLV-TWA (1995-1996) = 10 mg total dust/m<sup>3</sup>

OSHA PEL (8-hour TWA) = 10 mg total dust/m<sup>3</sup>

OSHA PEL (8-hour TWA) = 5mg respirable dust/m<sup>3</sup>

LD50 = Inhalation human TC Lo 194 gm/m<sup>3</sup>

LC50 = TWA 80mg/m<sup>3</sup>

Quartz (CAS# 14808-60-7) - approximately 0 to .20% by weight

ACGIH TLV-TWA (1995-1996) = 0.10 mg respirable quartz dust/m<sup>3</sup>

OSHA PEL (8-hour TWA) = (10 mg of respirable dust/m<sup>3</sup>) / (percent silica + 2)

NIOSH REL (8-hour TWA) = 0.05mg respirable quartz dust/m<sup>3</sup>

LD50 = ipr rat LD Lo 400 mg/kg

LC50 = TWA 50ug/m<sup>3</sup>

**Trace Elements:** Portland Cement is made from materials mined from the earth and is processed using energy provided by fuels. Trace amounts of naturally occurring, potentially harmful chemicals might be detected during chemical analysis. Trace constituents may include calcium oxide (also known as free lime or quick lime), free magnesium oxide, potassium and sodium sulfate compounds, chromium compounds, nickel compounds, and free crystalline silica.

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### Section 3 - HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION

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#### Emergency Overview:

Portland Cement is a light gray powder that poses little immediate hazard. A single short term exposure to the dry powder is not likely to cause serious harm. However, exposure of sufficient duration to wet portland cement can cause serious, potentially irreversible tissue (skin or eye) destruction in the form of chemical (caustic) burns, including third degree burns. The same type of tissue destruction can occur if wet or moist areas of the body are exposed for sufficient duration to dry portland cement.

#### Potential Health Effects:

**Relevant Routes of Exposure:** Eye contact, skin contact, inhalation and ingestion.

**Effects resulting from eye contact:** Exposure to airborne dust may cause immediate or delayed irritation or inflammation.

Eye contact by larger amounts of dry powder or splashes of wet portland cement may cause effects ranging from moderate eye irritation to chemical burns and blindness. Such exposures require immediate first aid (see Section 4) and medical attention to prevent significant damage to the eye.

**Effects resulting from skin contact:** Discomfort or pain cannot be relied upon to alert a person to hazardous skin exposure. Consequently, the only effective means of avoiding skin injury or illness involves minimizing skin contact, particularly contact with wet cement. Exposed persons may not feel discomfort until hours after the exposure has ended and significant injury has occurred.

Exposure to dry portland cement may cause drying of the skin with consequent mild irritation or more significant effects attributable to aggravation or other conditions. Dry portland cement contacting wet skin or exposure to moist or wet portland cement may cause more severe skin effects including thickening, cracking, or fissuring of the skin. Prolonged exposure can cause severe skin damage in the form of (caustic) chemical burns.

Some individuals may exhibit an allergic response upon exposure to portland cement, possibly due to trace amounts of chromium. The response may appear in a variety of forms ranging from a mild rash to severe skin ulcers. Persons already sensitized may react to their first contact with the product. Other persons may first experience this effect after years of contact with portland cement products.

**Effects resulting from Inhalation:** Portland cement may contain trace amounts of free crystalline silica. Prolonged exposure to airborne free crystalline silica may cause delayed lung injury including silicosis, a disabling and potentially fatal lung disease, and/or other diseases. (also see "Carcinogenic potential" below.) It may also aggravate other lung conditions. Exposure to portland cement may cause irritation to the moist mucous membranes of the nose, throat, and upper respiratory system. It may also leave unpleasant deposits in the nose.

**Effects resulting from Ingestion:** Although ingestion of small quantities of portland cement are not known to be harmful, ill effects are possible especially if larger quantities are consumed. Portland cement should not be eaten.

**Carcinogenic potential:** Portland cement is not listed as a carcinogen by the National Toxicology Program (NTP), International Agency for Research (IARC) or the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). It may, however, contain trace amounts of substances listed as carcinogens by these organizations.

Crystalline silica, a potential trace level contaminant in portland cement, is now classified by IARC as a known human carcinogen (Group 1). NTP has characterized respirable silica a "reasonably anticipated to be a carcinogen".

**Medical conditions which may be aggravated by inhalation or dermal exposure:**

Pre-existing upper respiratory and lung diseases.

Unusual (hyper) sensitivity to hexavalent chromium (chromium<sup>+6</sup>) salts.

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#### **Section 4 - FIRST AID**

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**Eyes:** Immediate flush eyes thoroughly with water. Continue flushing eye for at least 15 minutes including under lids, to remove all particles. Call physician immediately.

**Skin:** Wash skin with cool water and pH-neutral soap or a mild detergent intended for use on skin. Seek medical treatment in all cases of prolonged exposure to wet cement, cement mixtures, liquids from fresh cement products, or prolonged wet skin exposure to dry cement.

**Inhalation of airborne dust:** Remove to fresh air. Seek medical help if coughing and other symptoms do not subside. ("Inhalation" of gross amounts of portland cement requires immediate medical attention.)

**Ingestion:** Do not induce vomiting. If conscious, have the victim drink plenty of water and call a physician immediately.

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**Section 5 - FIRE AND EXPLOSION DATA**

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Flash Point.....None  
Lower Explosive Limit .....None  
Upper Explosive Limit .....None  
Auto ignition temperature .....Not combustible  
Extinguishing media.....Not combustible  
Hazardous combustion products.....None  
Unusual fire and explosion hazards .....None  
Special fire fighting procedures .....None\*

*\*Although portland cement poses no fire-related hazards, a self-contained breathing apparatus is recommended to limit exposure to combustion products when fighting any fire.*

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**Section 6 - ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES**

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Collect dry material using a scoop. Avoid actions that cause dust to become airborne. Avoid inhalation of dust and contact with skin. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment as described in Section 8.

Scrape up wet material and place in appropriate container. Allow the material to "dry" before disposal. Do not attempt to wash portland cement down drains.

Dispose of waste material according to local, state, and federal regulations.

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**Section 7 - HANDLING AND STORAGE**

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Keep portland cement dry until used. Normal temperatures and pressures do not affect the material. Promptly remove dusty clothing or clothing which is wet with cement fluids and launder before reuse. Wash thoroughly after exposure to dust or wet cement mixtures or fluids.

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**Section 8 - EXPOSURE CONTROLS/PERSONAL PROTECTION**

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**Skin protection:** Prevention is essential to avoid potentially severe skin injury. Avoid contact with unhardened (wet) portland cement products. If contact occurs; promptly wash affected area with soap and water. Where prolonged exposure to unhardened portland cement products might occur, wear impervious clothing and gloves to eliminate skin contact. Where required, wear boots that are impervious to water to eliminate foot and ankle exposure.

Do not rely on barrier creams; barrier creams should not be used in place of gloves.

Periodically wash areas contacted by dry portland cement or by wet cement or concrete fluids with a pH neutral soap. Wash again at the end of the work. If irritation occurs, immediately wash the affected area and seek treatment. If clothing becomes saturated with wet concrete, it should be removed and replaced with clean dry clothing.

**Respiratory protection:** Avoid actions that cause dust to become airborne. Use local or general ventilation to control exposures below applicable exposure limits.

Use NIOSH/MSHA-approved (under 30 CFR 11) or NIOSH-approved (under 42 CFR 84) respirators in poorly ventilated areas, if an applicable exposure limit is exceeded, or when dust causes discomfort or irritation. (Advisory: Respirators and filters purchased after July 10, 1998, must be certified under 42 CFR 84.)

**Ventilation:** Use local exhaust or general dilution ventilation to control exposure within applicable limits.

**Eye protection:** When engaged in activities where cement dust or wet cement or concrete could contact the eye, wear safety glasses with side shields or goggles. In extremely dusty environments and unpredictable environments, wear unvented or indirectly vented goggles to avoid eye irritation or injury. Contact lenses should not be worn when working with portland cement or fresh cement products.

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**Section 9 - PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES**

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Appearance .....	Gray or white with powder
Odor.....	No distinct odor
Physical state .....	Solid (powder)
pH (in water)(ASTM D 1293-95) .....	12 to 13
Solubility in water .....	Slightly soluble (0.1 to 1.0%)
Vapor pressure .....	Not applicable
Vapor density.....	Not applicable
Boiling point.....	Not applicable (i.e., >1000 deg. C)
Melting point .....	Not applicable
Specific gravity (H <sub>2</sub> O = 1.0).....	3.15
Evaporation Rate.....	Not applicable
Freezing Point .....	Not Applicable
Coefficient of oil to water distribution.....	Not Applicable

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**Section 10 - STABILITY AND REACTIVITY**

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**Stability:** Stable.

**Conditions to avoid:** Unintentional contact with water.

**Incompatibility:** Wet portland cement is alkaline. As such it is incompatible with acids, ammonium salts and aluminum metal.

**Hazardous decomposition:** Will not spontaneously occur. Adding water results in hydration and produces (caustic) calcium hydroxide.

**Hazardous polymerization:** Will not occur.

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## **Section 11 - TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION**

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Route of Entry .....	Section 3
Effects of acute exposure to product.....	Section 3
Effects of chronic exposure to product .....	Section 3
Exposure Limits.....	Section 2
Irritancy of product.....	Section 3
Sensitization to product .....	Section 3
Carcinogenicity.....	Section 3
Reproductive Toxicity.....	Not Applicable
Teratogenicity .....	Not Applicable
Mutagenicity.....	Not Applicable
Toxicologically synergistic products.....	Section 3, Section 16

For a description of available, more detailed toxicological information, call one of the informational phone numbers listed at the end of Section 1.

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## **Section 12 - ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION**

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**Ecotoxicity:** No recognized unusual toxicity to plants or animals.

**Relevant physical and chemical properties:** See Sections 9 and 10.

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## **Section 13 - DISPOSAL**

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Dispose of waste material according to local, state, and federal regulations. (Since portland cement is stable, uncontaminated material may be saved for future use.)

Dispose of bags in an approved landfill or incinerator.

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## **Section 14 - TRANSPORTATION DATA**

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**Hazardous materials description/proper shipping name:** Portland cement is not hazardous under U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations.

**Hazard class:** Not applicable.

**Identification number:** Not applicable.

**Required label text:** Not applicable.

**Hazardous substances/reportable quantities (RQ):** Not applicable.

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## **Section 15 - OTHER REGULATORY INFORMATION**

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**Status under USDOL-OSHA Hazard Communication Rule, 29 CFR 1910.1200:** Portland cement is considered a "hazardous chemical" under this regulation, and should be part of any hazard communication program.

**Status under CERCLA/Superfund, 40 CFR 117 and 302:** Not Listed.

**Hazard Category under SARA TITLE III, Sections 311-312:** Portland cement qualifies as a "hazard substance" with delayed health effects.

**Status under SARA Title III, Section 313:** This product contains NONE of the substances subject to the reporting requirements of Section 313 of Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 and 40 CFR Part 372 in concentrations above de minimis levels.

**Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA):** Some substances in portland cement are on TSCA's inventory list.

**Status under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act:** Portland cement is a "hazardous substance" subject to statutes promulgated under the subject act.

**Status under Canadian Environmental Protection Act:** Not listed.

**Status under WHMIS:** Portland cement is considered to be a hazardous material under the Hazardous Products Act as defined by the Controlled Products Regulations (Class E - Corrosive material) and is therefore subject to the labeling and MSDS requirements of the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS).

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## SECTION 16 - OTHER INFORMATION

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<b>Prepared by:</b>	<b>Essroc MSDS Development Committee</b>
<b>Abbreviations:</b>	
ACGIH	American Conference of Government Industrial Hygienists
ASTM	American Society of Testing Materials
CAS	Chemical Abstract Service
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DOT	Department of Transportation
IARC	International Agency for Research
m <sup>3</sup>	Cubic meter
mg	Milligram
mm	Millimeter
MSDS	Material Safety Data Sheet
MSHA	Mine Safety and Health Administration
NIOSH	National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
NTP	National Toxicity Program
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PEL	Permissible Exposure Limit
RQ	Reportable Quantities
SARA	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act
TLV	Threshold Limit Value
TWA	Time Weighted Average
URT	Upper Respiratory Tract
WHMIS	Workplace Hazardous Material Information System

**Other important information:**

Portland cement should only be used by knowledgeable persons. A key to using the product safely requires the user to recognize that portland cement chemically reacts with water, and that some of the intermediate products of this reaction (that is, those present while portland cement is "setting") pose a far more severe hazard than does portland cement itself.

While the information provided in this material safety data sheet is believed to provide a useful summary of the hazards of portland cement as it is commonly used, the sheet cannot anticipate and provide all of the information that might be needed in every situation. Inexperienced product users should obtain proper training before using this product.

In particular, the data furnished in this sheet do not address hazards that may be posed by other materials mixed with portland cement to produce portland cement products. Users should review other relevant material safety data sheets before working with this portland cement or working on portland cement products, for example, portland cement concrete.

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