

## AROMATIC SOLVENTS Product Stewardship Summary

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### CAS number

Shell Sol A100: 64742-95-6

Shell Sol A150: 64742-94-5

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### What aromatic solvents?

The aromatic solvents available from Shell chemicals companies include pure aromatics like toluene and xylene (isomer mix) as well as a range of heavier C9 and C10 aromatic solvents sold under the ShellSol™ name. The ShellSol grades constitute a versatile range of high boiling, highly aromatic solvents.

### How are aromatic solvents used?

Pure aromatics are widely used in paints, adhesives and printing inks. Other applications include extraction, degreasing, as components in insecticides, and as chemical intermediates (eg toluene diisocyanate).

### Health, Safety and Environmental considerations

Aromatic solvents are highly flammable and flammable atmospheres can be created at room temperatures. This means that any environment where hydrocarbon solvents are being used needs to be well ventilated. As the vapour is heavier than air, it may spread along the ground, so care needs to be taken that the vapour is not ignited by a distant source.

Care should be taken to not ingest aromatic solvents, because they may be aspirated into the lung and result in severe lung damage and possibly death. As a first aid measure, vomiting should not be induced and medical attention should be sought immediately.

Like many solvents, high concentrations of aromatic solvent vapour will cause dizziness, a feeling of drunkenness and headaches, and may be irritating to the respiratory tract and eyes. Exposure to an accidental release may cause short-term effects but should not result in long-term effects.

The American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) has assigned occupational Exposure Limits for various components of aromatics solvents. Please refer to the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for complete information.

### **Storing and transporting methyl ethyl ketone**

Aromatics hydrocarbons are flammable and can therefore be dangerous to transport or store. Appropriate guidelines and regulations should be followed.

### **Risk Characterization Summary**

Risks associated with exposure to these products have been evaluated for the following “chain-of-commerce” activities: manufacture, storage, product transfer, transportation, and customers/markets. It is manufactured, stored and transported to customers in closed systems. Depending on the customer, end uses may vary from use as an intermediate for the manufacture other chemicals, commercial products, or certain formulated consumer products. Proper equipment design and handling procedures maintain low risk from exposure where used as an intermediate. Exposures may be higher in commercial and consumer applications. To minimize risk, additional controls, such as, special handling procedures and protective packaging, are implemented.

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This product stewardship summary is intended to give general information about the chemical or categories of chemicals addressed. It is not intended to provide an in-depth discussion of health and safety information. Additional information is available through the chemical’s applicable Material Safety Data Sheet, which should be consulted before use of the chemical. This product stewardship summary does not supplant or replace required regulatory and/or legal communication documents.