

Introduction

Ammonia is a colorless gas with a sharp, irritating odor. It is a typical respiratory and eye irritant. Depending on the concentration, it may cause burning sensations, coughing, wheezing, headaches and conjunctivitis. High exposures cause caustic skin burns, eye swelling with possible loss of vision, shortness of breath and nausea. Ammonia causes chemical pneumonitis (deep lung inflammation) and pulmonary edema (abnormal fluid build up in the lungs). OSHA exposure limit for ammonia is 50 ppm (TWA). NIOSH exposure limit for ammonia is 25 ppm (TWA).

Ammonia is a commonly used chemical. As a product of normal biodegradation of bioproducts, it is spread as a pollutant in poultry plants and animal farms. Ammonia is used in the production of nitric acid, ammonia salts, fertilizers, leather, cooling and freezing systems, cleaning liquids, etc.

Principle of Operation

The ChromAir passive monitor is a patented direct-read autogenic exposimeter. The device is constructed from six cells attached on one side to a flat indicator layer and on the other side to a series of different diffusive resistances. Ammonia gas diffuses to the cells through the different diffusive resistances and reacts with the indicator layer, producing color change from tan to beige to black. The color produced on the indicator layer is a direct measure of the exposure dose. Visual color comparison is achieved by observing the formation of the beige threshold color on the individual cell and reading the corresponding exposure dose.

Operating Instructions

1. Remove the pouch from refrigerator and allow it to warm to room temperature.
2. Remove the badge from its protective pouch.
3. Enter all pertinent information on the I.D. label before monitoring is started (i.e. name, location, date and start time).
4. For personnel monitoring, attach the badge near the user's breathing zone (i.e. collar) with the front side exposed to the surrounding atmosphere.
5. For area monitoring, attach the badge to a stand and mount in a centralized area with the front side exposed to the surrounding atmosphere.
6. Check the back side of the badge periodically to determine the exposure dose (ppm•hr).
7. To read the badge, locate the highest level cell with beige threshold color.
8. To obtain the average concentration (ppm) in the surrounding atmosphere, divide the exposure dose (ppm•hr) by the exposure time in hours. EXAMPLE: If the sampling time is 2 hours and the badge reads 4 ppm•hr, the average concentration is determined by:

$\frac{4 \text{ ppm}\cdot\text{hr}}{2 \text{ hr}}$ Therefore the average concentration is 2 ppm.

Storage

The ChromAir ammonia monitor should be refrigerated in its sealed bag at all times.

Benefits

1. Accurate Measurements: The ChromAir ammonia monitor is designed to react selectively with ammonia with minimum interference from other substances. The unique design of the monitor minimizes the effects of different humidities, temperatures and air velocities on the accuracy of measurements.
2. Applications: The ChromAir monitor may be used for personnel screening and for area monitoring or area mapping.
3. Ease of Use: The ChromAir monitor is a direct-read device that gives immediate, on-site results. Use of this device requires minimum training.
4. Cost Effective: The ChromAir ammonia monitor offers the user the most inexpensive air sampling solution available.

Other Available Monitors

1. ChromAir Badges:

Acetone	Formaldehyde	Methanol
Carbon monoxide	Glutaraldehyde	Methyl ethyl ketone
Chlorine	Hydrogen sulfide	Methyl isobutyl ketone
Ethanol	Mercury	Ozone
2. ChromAir Color Comparators:

Carbon monoxide	Hydrogen sulfide
Chlorine	Mercury
Formaldehyde	

If you require ChromAir monitors for a chemical hazard not listed, please contact Morphix Technologies® for a free compound consultation at (800) 808-2234.