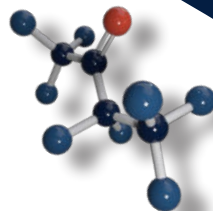


Methyl ethyl ketone



Formula: C₄H₈O

CAS: 78-93-3

Source: Manufacturing of Rubber & Wax, Vehicle exhausts & Paints

Detection Method: Tiger, Tiger^{LT}, Cub, Falco, TVOC 2, GasClam 2 & GasCheck G

Methyl ethyl ketone is an organic compound often abbreviated to MEK - or known as butanone and 2-butanone. It is a colourless liquid with a smell like mint mixed with acetone, and as a ketone, it contains a carbonyl group bonded to two hydrocarbon groups. MEK is produced on an industrial scale as it is used in so many products and processes.

C₄H₈O - A NATURAL COMPONENT IN FOODS, INCLUDING APPLE JUICE, BEANS, CHICKEN & HONEY

Workers Who May Be Exposed To MEK

Methyl ethyl ketone is used in many industries. It is used as a solvent and in the manufacture of synthetic rubber, paraffin wax, and to make other chemical products. Some examples of workers at risk of being exposed to methyl ethyl ketone include the following:

- Workers who work in printing plants
- Employees exposed to certain paints, coatings, or glues
- Workers who work in shoe and sporting goods factories
- Manufacturing workers involved in making synthetic rubber products

Entering The Environment

Human activities can also lead to the release of methyl ethyl ketone into the environment. It can enter the environment during its production, transport and use. It may also be released from vehicle exhausts and during the breakdown of other chemicals.

An Industrial Solvent

Methyl ethyl ketone is produced industrially in large quantities and is mainly used as a solvent in protective coatings. It is also used as a solvent for paints, plastics, adhesives, printing inks and pesticides. It is used in cosmetics, pharmaceuticals and as a flavour/fragrance agent.

Another use of MEKs is in dry-erase marker pens as the solvent in the dye - it's the ingredient that ensures the ink flows properly onto the whiteboard both because it can dilute many different pigments, and because its low viscosity means the ink can flow.

Exposure To The General Public

Methyl ethyl ketone can be found in various food items including meat, fruit and vegetables. The general public may also be exposed to low levels of methyl ethyl ketone in the environment and from cigarette smoke. People may be exposed to small amounts due to its use in household products such as paints and varnishes. Exposure to methyl ethyl ketone may also occur in the workplace although safe levels are enforced to protect the employees. Such levels are below those that are thought to cause harmful effects.

Methyl ethyl ketone Detection Instruments



Fixed Instruments



Semi-Portable Instruments



Portable Instruments



Personal Instruments

