

SAFETY DATA SHEET

according to Regulation (EC) No. 1907/2006, as amended by
Commission Regulation (EU) 2020/878



OPTIGEL-WA

Version: 3.2

SDB_GB

Revision Date: 23.06.2026

Date of last issue: 14.04.2023

Print Date: 30.06.2026

SECTION 1: Identification of the substance/mixture and of the company/undertaking

1.1 Product identifier

Trade name : OPTIGEL-WA

Product code : 000000000000110655

1.2 Relevant identified uses of the substance or mixture and uses advised against

Use of the Substance/Mixture : Rheology Additive

1.3 Details of the supplier of the safety data sheet

Company : BYK-Chemie GmbH
Abelstrasse 45
46483 Wesel
Telephone : +49 281 670-0
Telefax : +49 281 65735

Information : Regulatory Affairs
Telephone : +49 281 670-23532
Telefax : +49 281 670-23533
E-mail address : GHS.BYK@altana.com

1.4 Emergency telephone number

+44 1235 239670

SECTION 2: Hazards identification

2.1 Classification of the substance or mixture

Classification (REGULATION (EC) No 1272/2008)

Not a hazardous substance or mixture.

2.2 Label elements

Labelling (REGULATION (EC) No 1272/2008)

Not a hazardous substance or mixture.

2.3 Other hazards

This substance/mixture contains no components considered to be either persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT), or very persistent and very bioaccumulative (vPvB) at levels of 0.1% or higher.

Ecological information: The substance/mixture does not contain components considered to have endocrine disrupting properties according to REACH Article 57(f) or Commission Delegated regulation (EU) 2017/2100 or Commission Regulation (EU) 2018/605 at levels of 0.1% or higher.

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Toxicological information: The substance/mixture does not contain components considered to have endocrine disrupting properties according to REACH Article 57(f) or Commission Delegated regulation (EU) 2017/2100 or Commission Regulation (EU) 2018/605 at levels of 0.1% or higher.

The substance has been assessed and/or tested for its physical, health and environmental hazards and the following classification applies.

The product contains less than 1% w/w RCS (respirable crystalline silica) as determined by the SWeRF method. The respirable crystalline silica content can be measured using the "Size-Weighted Respirable Fraction – SWeRF" method. All details about the SWeRF method is available at www.crystallinesilica.eu.

Depending on the handling and use (grinding, drying, bagging), airborne respirable dust may be generated. Dust contains respirable crystalline silica. Prolonged and or massive inhalation of respirable crystalline silica dust may cause lung fibrosis, commonly referred to as silicosis. Principal symptoms of silicosis are cough and breathlessness. Occupational exposure to respirable dust should be monitored and controlled. The product should be handled using methods and techniques that minimize or eliminate dust generation.

SECTION 3: Composition/information on ingredients

3.2 Mixtures

Chemical nature : Modified activated phyllosilicate

Components

Remarks : No hazardous ingredients

SECTION 4: First aid measures

4.1 Description of first aid measures

General advice : Do not leave the victim unattended.

If inhaled : If unconscious, place in recovery position and seek medical advice.
If symptoms persist, call a physician.

If breathed in, move person into fresh air.

In case of skin contact : Wash off with soap and plenty of water.
If skin irritation persists, call a physician.
Wash contaminated clothing before re-use.

In case of eye contact : Remove contact lenses.
Protect unharmed eye.
If eye irritation persists, consult a specialist.

Rinse thoroughly with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes and consult a physician.

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If swallowed : Keep respiratory tract clear.
Do not give milk or alcoholic beverages.
Never give anything by mouth to an unconscious person.
If symptoms persist, call a physician.

4.2 Most important symptoms and effects, both acute and delayed

Symptoms : No information available.

4.3 Indication of any immediate medical attention and special treatment needed

Treatment : No information available.

SECTION 5: Firefighting measures

5.1 Extinguishing media

Suitable extinguishing media : Foam
Carbon dioxide (CO₂)
Dry chemical

Unsuitable extinguishing media : High volume water jet

5.2 Special hazards arising from the substance or mixture

Hazardous combustion products : Carbon oxides

5.3 Advice for firefighters

Special protective equipment for firefighters : Wear self-contained breathing apparatus for firefighting if necessary.

Further information : Standard procedure for chemical fires.
Use extinguishing measures that are appropriate to local circumstances and the surrounding environment.

SECTION 6: Accidental release measures

6.1 Personal precautions, protective equipment and emergency procedures

Personal precautions : Avoid dust formation.

6.2 Environmental precautions

Environmental precautions : Try to prevent the material from entering drains or water courses.

6.3 Methods and material for containment and cleaning up

Methods for cleaning up : Pick up and arrange disposal without creating dust.
Sweep up and shovel.

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Keep in suitable, closed containers for disposal.

6.4 Reference to other sections

For disposal considerations see section 13.

SECTION 7: Handling and storage

7.1 Precautions for safe handling

- Advice on safe handling : Avoid spillage on floor as the product can become very slippery when wet.
For personal protection see section 8.
Smoking, eating and drinking should be prohibited in the application area.
- Advice on protection against fire and explosion : Provide appropriate exhaust ventilation at places where dust is formed.
- Hygiene measures : General industrial hygiene practice.

7.2 Conditions for safe storage, including any incompatibilities

- Requirements for storage areas and containers : Electrical installations / working materials must comply with the technological safety standards.
- Advice on common storage : No materials to be especially mentioned.
- Further information on storage stability : Keep in a dry place.
No decomposition if stored and applied as directed.

7.3 Specific end use(s)

- Specific use(s) : No data available

SECTION 8: Exposure controls/personal protection

8.1 Control parameters

Occupational Exposure Limits

Contains no substances with occupational exposure limit values.

Further occupational exposure limits

Description	Value type	Control parameters	Basis
dust of any kind	TWA	10 mg/m ³	GB EH40
	TWA	4 mg/m ³	GB EH40

8.2 Exposure controls

Engineering measures

As a rule, at least 10 air changes per hour are recommended at the workplace.

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Personal protective equipment

Eye/face protection	:	Safety glasses
Hand protection	:	
Material	:	Protective gloves
Remarks	:	Use protective skin cream before handling the product.
Skin and body protection	:	Protective suit
Respiratory protection	:	In the case of dust or aerosol formation use respirator with an approved filter. No personal respiratory protective equipment normally required.
Protective measures	:	Occupational exposure to respirable dust and respirable crystalline silica should be monitored and controlled.

Environmental exposure controls

General advice	:	Try to prevent the material from entering drains or water courses.
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SECTION 9: Physical and chemical properties

9.1 Information on basic physical and chemical properties

Physical state	:	powder
Colour	:	off-white
Odour	:	odourless
Odour Threshold	:	Not applicable
Melting point/ range	:	$\geq 1.000\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$
Boiling point/boiling range	:	Not applicable
Flammability	:	Will not burn
Upper explosion limit / Upper flammability limit	:	Not applicable
Lower explosion limit / Lower flammability limit	:	Not applicable
Flash point	:	Not applicable
Auto-ignition temperature	:	Not applicable
Decomposition temperature	:	Not applicable
pH	:	7,8 (23 °C) Concentration: 2 %

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Viscosity		
Viscosity, dynamic	:	Not applicable
Solubility(ies)		
Water solubility	:	slightly soluble
Solubility in other solvents	:	No data available
Partition coefficient: n-octanol/water	:	No data available
Vapour pressure	:	Not applicable
Relative density	:	No data available
Density	:	2,40 g/cm ³ (20 °C)
Bulk density	:	400 - 600 kg/m ³
Relative vapour density	:	Not applicable

9.2 Other information

Flammable solids		
Burning number	:	1
Self-ignition	:	Not applicable
Minimum explosible dust concentration	:	Not applicable
Evaporation rate	:	Not applicable

SECTION 10: Stability and reactivity

10.1 Reactivity

No decomposition if stored and applied as directed.

10.2 Chemical stability

No decomposition if stored and applied as directed.

10.3 Possibility of hazardous reactions

Hazardous reactions	:	Stable under recommended storage conditions.
		Dust may form explosive mixture in air.

10.4 Conditions to avoid

Conditions to avoid	:	No data available
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10.5 Incompatible materials

Materials to avoid : Strong oxidizing agents

10.6 Hazardous decomposition products

No decomposition if stored and applied as directed.

SECTION 11: Toxicological information

11.1 Information on hazard classes as defined in Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008

Acute toxicity

Product:

Acute oral toxicity : Remarks: No data available

Skin corrosion/irritation

Product:

Remarks : No data available

Serious eye damage/eye irritation

Product:

Remarks : No data available

Respiratory or skin sensitisation

Product:

Remarks : No data available

Repeated dose toxicity

Product:

Remarks : No data available

11.2 Information on other hazards

Endocrine disrupting properties

Product:

Assessment : The substance/mixture does not contain components considered to have endocrine disrupting properties according to REACH Article 57(f) or Commission Delegated regulation (EU) 2017/2100 or Commission Regulation (EU) 2018/605 at levels of 0.1% or higher.

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Further information

Product:

Remarks : This product contains <1% crystalline silica. The respirable crystalline silica as determined by the SWeRF method is <1% w/w. See section 2.3

SECTION 12: Ecological information

12.1 Toxicity

Product:

Toxicity to fish : Remarks: No data available

Toxicity to daphnia and other aquatic invertebrates : Remarks: No data available

12.2 Persistence and degradability

Product:

Biodegradability : Remarks: No data available

12.3 Bioaccumulative potential

Product:

Bioaccumulation : Remarks: No data available

12.4 Mobility in soil

Product:

Mobility : Remarks: Bentonite is almost insoluble and thus presents a low mobility in most soils

12.5 Results of PBT and vPvB assessment

Product:

Assessment : This substance/mixture contains no components considered to be either persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT), or very persistent and very bioaccumulative (vPvB) at levels of 0.1% or higher.

12.6 Endocrine disrupting properties

Product:

Assessment : The substance/mixture does not contain components considered to have endocrine disrupting properties according to REACH Article 57(f) or Commission Delegated regulation (EU) 2017/2100 or Commission Regulation (EU) 2018/605 at levels of 0.1% or higher.

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12.7 Other adverse effects

Product:

Additional ecological information : No data available

SECTION 13: Disposal considerations

13.1 Waste treatment methods

Contaminated packaging : Empty containers should be taken to an approved waste handling site for recycling or disposal.

SECTION 14: Transport information

14.1 UN number or ID number

ADN : Not regulated as a dangerous good
ADR : Not regulated as a dangerous good
RID : Not regulated as a dangerous good
IMDG : Not regulated as a dangerous good
IATA : Not regulated as a dangerous good

14.2 UN proper shipping name

ADN : Not regulated as a dangerous good
ADR : Not regulated as a dangerous good
RID : Not regulated as a dangerous good
IMDG : Not regulated as a dangerous good
IATA : Not regulated as a dangerous good

14.3 Transport hazard class(es)

ADN : Not regulated as a dangerous good
ADR : Not regulated as a dangerous good
RID : Not regulated as a dangerous good
IMDG : Not regulated as a dangerous good
IATA : Not regulated as a dangerous good

14.4 Packing group

ADN : Not regulated as a dangerous good
ADR : Not regulated as a dangerous good
RID : Not regulated as a dangerous good

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IMDG : Not regulated as a dangerous good
IATA (Cargo) : Not regulated as a dangerous good
IATA (Passenger) : Not regulated as a dangerous good

14.5 Environmental hazards

Not regulated as a dangerous good

14.6 Special precautions for user

Not applicable

14.7 Maritime transport in bulk according to IMO instruments

Not applicable for product as supplied.

SECTION 15: Regulatory information

15.1 Safety, health and environmental regulations/legislation specific for the substance or mixture

Relevant EU provisions transposed through retained EU law

REACH - Restrictions on the manufacture, placing on the market and use of certain dangerous substances, mixtures and articles (Annex XVII) : Not applicable
REACH - List of substances subject to authorisation (Annex XIV) : Not applicable
Seveso III: Directive 2012/18/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances. Not applicable

15.2 Chemical safety assessment

Bentonite is exempted from REACH registration in accordance with Annex V.7. A hazard assessment has been conducted under the umbrella of the European Bentonite Association (EUBA) and the outcome was that bentonite is not a hazardous substances. Therefore, in absence of identified hazard, the substance is safe and presents no risk.

SECTION 16: Other information

Items where relevant changes have been made to the previous version are highlighted in the body of this document by two vertical lines.

Full text of other abbreviations

GB EH40 : UK. EH40 WEL - Workplace Exposure Limits
GB EH40 / TWA : Long-term exposure limit (8-hour TWA reference period)

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ADN - European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways; ADR - Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road; AIIC - Australian Inventory of Industrial Chemicals; ASTM - American Society for the Testing of Materials; bw - Body weight; CLP - Classification Labelling Packaging Regulation; Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008; CMR - Carcinogen, Mutagen or Reproductive Toxicant; DIN - Standard of the German Institute for Standardisation; DSL - Domestic Substances List (Canada); ECHA - European Chemicals Agency; EC-Number - European Community number; ECx - Concentration associated with x% response; ELx - Loading rate associated with x% response; EmS - Emergency Schedule; ENCS - Existing and New Chemical Substances (Japan); ErCx - Concentration associated with x% growth rate response; GHS - Globally Harmonised System; GLP - Good Laboratory Practice; IARC - International Agency for Research on Cancer; IATA - International Air Transport Association; IBC - International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk; IC50 - Half maximal inhibitory concentration; ICAO - International Civil Aviation Organization; IECSC - Inventory of Existing Chemical Substances in China; IMDG - International Maritime Dangerous Goods; IMO - International Maritime Organisation; ISHL - Industrial Safety and Health Law (Japan); ISO - International Organisation for Standardisation; KECI - Korea Existing Chemicals Inventory; LC50 - Lethal Concentration to 50 % of a test population; LD50 - Lethal Dose to 50% of a test population (Median Lethal Dose); MARPOL - International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships; n.o.s. - Not Otherwise Specified; NO(A)EC - No Observed (Adverse) Effect Concentration; NO(A)EL - No Observed (Adverse) Effect Level; NOELR - No Observable Effect Loading Rate; NZIoC - New Zealand Inventory of Chemicals; OECD - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; OPPTS - Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention; PBT - Persistent, Bioaccumulative and Toxic substance; PICCS - Philippines Inventory of Chemicals and Chemical Substances; (Q)SAR - (Quantitative) Structure Activity Relationship; REACH - Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals; RID - Regulations concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail; SADT - Self-Accelerating Decomposition Temperature; SDS - Safety Data Sheet; SVHC - Substance of Very High Concern; TCSI - Taiwan Chemical Substance Inventory; TECI - Thailand Existing Chemicals Inventory; TRGS - Technical Rule for Hazardous Substances; TSCA - Toxic Substances Control Act (United States); UN - United Nations; vPvB - Very Persistent and Very Bioaccumulative

Further information

Training advice : Workers (and your customers or users in the case of resale) should be informed of the potential presence of respirable dust and respirable crystalline silica as well as their potential hazards. Appropriate training in the proper use and handling of this material should be provided as required under applicable regulations.

Other information : In 1997, IARC (the International Agency for Research on Cancer) concluded that crystalline silica inhaled from occupational sources can cause lung cancer in humans. However in making the overall evaluation, IARC noted that "carcinogenicity was not detected in all industrial circumstances studied. Carcinogenicity may be dependent on inherent characteristics of the crystalline silica or on external factors affecting its biological activity or distribution of its polymorphs." (IARC Monographs on the evaluation of the carcinogenic risks of chemicals to humans, Silica, silicates dust and organic fibres, 1997, Vol. 68, IARC, Lyon, France.)

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In June 2003, SCOEL (the EU Scientific Committee on Occupational Exposure Limits) concluded that the main effect in humans of the inhalation of respirable crystalline silica dust is silicosis. "There is sufficient information to conclude that the relative risk of lung cancer is increased in persons with silicosis (and, apparently, not in employees without silicosis exposed to silica dust in quarries and in the ceramic industry). Therefore, preventing the onset of silicosis will also reduce the cancer risk..." (SCOEL SUM Doc 94-final, June 2003)

According to the current state of the art, worker protection against silicosis can be consistently assured by respecting the existing regulatory occupational exposure limits.

The information provided in this Safety Data Sheet is correct to the best of our knowledge, information and belief at the date of its publication. The information given is designed only as a guidance for safe handling, use, processing, storage, transportation, disposal and release and is not to be considered a warranty or quality specification. The information relates only to the specific material designated and may not be valid for such material used in combination with any other materials or in any process, unless specified in the text.

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