

The Workplace Safety and Health Dictionary

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Introduction

The terms and abbreviations contained in this document were compiled from the glossaries in Genium's set of Pocket Publications. In addition to general safety and health terms you will find terms associated with the following specialized subjects:

Material Safety Data Sheets
Laboratory Safety
Construction Safety
Confined Spaces
Bloodborne Pathogens and Tuberculosis
Hazwoper
Respirators and Other Personal Protective Equipment
Process Safety Management
Hazardous Materials Transport
Lock Out Tag Out

In addition to the extensive glossary of terms and abbreviations, we included 3 handy sections of information that safety and health professionals will commonly refer to.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

A

Abandoned Site. An inactive hazardous waste disposal or storage facility which cannot be easily traced to a specific owner, or a location where illegal dumping has taken place.

Abrasion. Scraped skin.

Abrasive Blasting Respirator. A respirator designed to protect the wearer from inhalation, impact, and abrasion of materials used for, or generated in, abrasive blasting.

Absolute. A chemical substance relatively free of impurities, e.g., absolute alcohol.

Absolute Pressure. The total pressure within a vessel, pipe, etc., not offset by external atmospheric pressure. See psia, psig.

Absorb. To soak up. The incorporation of a liquid into a solid substance, as by capillary, osmotic, solvent, or chemical action. See Adsorb.

Absorption. Entry of a chemical into the body, often into the bloodstream.

As used in hazardous waste handling (HAZWOPER), absorption means the hazardous waste physical treatment method which involves adding materials to the waste to decrease its fluid content; suitable absorbents include soil and fly ash.


Acceptable Environmental Conditions. The conditions that must exist in a permit space to allow entry and to ensure that employees involved with a permit required confined space entry can safely enter into and work within the space.

Acclimation. To accustom or become accustomed to a different climate, environment, or circumstance.

ACGIH. American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists. An organization of professionals in governmental agencies or educational institutions engaged in occupational safety and health programs. ACGIH develops and publishes recommended occupational exposure limits for chemical substances and physical agents (see TLV and BEI). (1330 Kemper Meadow Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45240; 513-742-2020)

PLACARDS AND SIGNS

	Background Color: Red
Potential Hazards: Fire or Explosion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flammable/combustible material; may be ignited by heat, sparks or flames.• May ignite other combustible materials (wood, paper, oil, etc.).• Container may explode in heat of fire.• Reaction with fuels may be violent.• Runoff to sewer may create fire or explosion hazard. Health Hazard <ul style="list-style-type: none">• May be fatal if inhaled, swallowed or absorbed through skin.• Contact may cause burns to skin and eyes.• Fire may produce irritating or poisonous gases.• Runoff from fire control or dilution water may cause pollution.	

	Background Color: Orange
Potential Hazards: Fire or Explosion May explode and throw fragments 1 mile or more if fire reaches cargo. Health Hazard <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fire may produce irritating or poisonous gases.	

CONVERSION FACTORS

To convert units of one system into another, find the given units in the table and multiply by the appropriate conversion factor. For example,

To convert 26.5 centimeters into inches, find centimeters in the table, read across to inches and multiply by 0.3937.

$$26.5 \text{ cm} \times \frac{0.3937 \text{ inch}}{\text{cm}} = 10.4 \text{ inches}$$

To convert inches into centimeters, find inches in the table, read across to centimeters and multiply by 2.540.

$$8.75 \text{ inches} \times \frac{2.540 \text{ cm}}{\text{inches}} = 22.2 \text{ inches}$$

TO CONVERT	INTO	MULTIPLY BY
A		
amperes/sq cm	amps/sq in	6.452
amperes/sq cm	amps/sq meter	10 ⁴
amperes/sq in	amps/sq cm	0.1550
amperes/sq in	amps/sq meter	1,550.0
ampere-hours	coulombs	3,600.0
angstrom unit	inches	3937 x 10 ⁻⁹
angstrom unit	meters	1 x 10 ⁻¹⁰
angstrom unit	microns or (mu)	1 x 10 ⁻⁴
atmospheres	ton/sq in	.007348
atmospheres	cm of mercury	76.0
atmospheres	mm of mercury	760.0
atmospheres	torrs	760.0
atmospheres	ft of water (at 4 °C)	33.90
atmospheres	in of mercury (at 0°C)	29.92
atmospheres	kg/sq cm	1.0333
atmospheres	kg/sq meter	10,332
atmospheres	lb/sq in	14.70
atmospheres	tons/sq ft	1.058

OSHA PELS

Table 1. Permissible Exposure Limits

The Transitional Limits promulgated in 1971 are once again the effective exposure limits currently being enforced by OSHA. The Final Rule Limits promulgated in 1989 updated the Transitional Limits from 1971 and established new limits for previously unregulated substances. The U.S. Court of Appeals struck down the more stringent 1989 Final Rule Limits, and these limits are no longer being enforced by OSHA. This decision means that OSHA PELs will revert back to the much less stringent exposure limits issued in 1971. The Final Rule Limits were determined unconstitutional because classes of chemicals were looked at, rather than each chemical individually. However, some states may choose to enforce the Final Rule Limits. Check with your supervisor to find out which limits are used in your facility.

The listing on the following pages contains both the 1989 Final Rule Limits and 1971 Transitional Limits.