


SOP for Acetonitrile, AKA methyl cyanide

University of Washington

Standard Operating Procedures for Chemicals or Processes		
#1 Process (if applicable)	Toxic liquid use and storage:	
#2 Chemicals	<p>Toxic liquids may evaporate and pose an inhalation hazard. They may also absorb through the skin or mucous membranes and cause local or systemic effects.</p> <p>Acetonitrile, aka methyl cyanide, is metabolized in the body to formaldehyde and cyanide.</p> <p>Check MSDS of the material for exposure limits and vapor pressure to determine inhalation hazards, and for skin warnings to determine skin hazards. The MSDS will also provide information on other hazards (i.e., flammability) – follow other SOPs as appropriate.</p>	
#3 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	The minimum PPE for toxic liquids is standard nitrile laboratory gloves, lab coat, and safety glasses or a face shield.	
#4 Environmental / Ventilation Controls	Solvents should be dispensed only in a fume hood or in a well-ventilated space.	
#5 Special Handling Procedures & Storage Requirements	<p>Keep containers closed as much as possible.</p> <p>Be aware of skin absorption as a possible route of exposure. Plan work so that minimal glove contact is expected, and purchase appropriate gloves for cleaning up small spills.</p> <p>Use in the smallest practical quantities for the experiment being performed</p>	
#6 Spill and Accident Procedures	<p>Remove all sources of ignition from the spill area if it is safe to do it. Small fires may be extinguished if it is safe and the operator is trained to use the fire extinguisher.</p> <p>Wipe down spill area with solvent absorbent pads. Solvent absorption pads are stored under the sink.</p>	
#7 Waste Disposal	<p>Label with Hazardous Waste Label, accumulate according to requirements, and send in Chemical Collection Request or Routine Pickup request, both available online at http://www.ehs.washington.edu/epowaste/chemwaste.shtml. Do not evaporate flammable solvents in the fume hood.</p>	
#8 Special Precautions for Animal Use (if applicable)	N/A	
Particularly hazardous substance involved?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES:	Blocks #9 to #11 are Mandatory
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO:	Blocks #9 to #11 are Optional.
#9 Approval Required	N/A	
#10 Decontamination	N/A	
#11 Designated Area	N/A	
Name: Priska von Haller Title:		
<p>Signature:  Date: 5/13/2025</p>		