Material Safety Data Sheet
Nitric acid, 20-70%

ACC# 16550

Section 1 - Chemical Product and Company Identification

**MSDS Name:** Nitric acid, 20-70%
**Synonyms:** Azotic acid; Engraver's acid; Aqua fortis.

**Company Identification:**
Fisher Scientific
1 Reagent Lane
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410
**For information, call:** 201-796-7100
**Emergency Number:** 201-796-7100
**For CHEMTREC assistance, call:** 800-424-9300
**For International CHEMTREC assistance, call:** 703-527-3887

Section 2 - Composition, Information on Ingredients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAS#</th>
<th>Chemical Name</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>EINECS/ELINCS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7732-18-5</td>
<td>Water</td>
<td>30-80</td>
<td>231-791-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7697-37-2</td>
<td>Nitric acid</td>
<td>20-70</td>
<td>231-714-2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Section 3 - Hazards Identification

**EMERGENCY OVERVIEW**

**Appearance:** clear to yellow liquid.

**Danger!** May be fatal if inhaled. Causes severe eye and skin burns. Causes severe respiratory and digestive tract burns. Strong oxidizer. Contact with other material may cause a fire. Acute pulmonary edema or chronic obstructive lung disease may occur from inhalation of the vapors of nitric acid. Corrosive to metal.

**Target Organs:** Lungs, eyes, skin, mucous membranes.

**Potential Health Effects**
**Eye:** Causes severe eye burns. Direct contact with liquid may cause blindness or permanent eye damage.

**Skin:** Causes skin burns. May cause deep, penetrating ulcers of the skin. Concentrated nitric acid dyes human skin yellow on contact.

**Ingestion:** May cause severe and permanent damage to the digestive tract. Causes gastrointestinal tract burns. May cause perforation of the digestive tract. May cause systemic effects.

**Inhalation:** Effects may be delayed. Causes chemical burns to the respiratory tract. Inhalation may be fatal as a result of spasm, inflammation, edema of the larynx and bronchi, chemical pneumonitis and pulmonary edema. Aspiration may lead to pulmonary edema. May cause systemic effects. May cause acute pulmonary edema, asphyxia, chemical pneumonitis, and upper airway obstruction caused by edema. Depending on the conditions, the vapor or fumes of nitric acid may actually be a mixture of nitric acid and various oxides of nitrogen. The composition may vary with temperature, humidity, and contact with other organic materials.

**Chronic:** Exposure to high concentrations of nitric acid vapor may cause pneumonitis and pulmonary edema which may be fatal. Symptoms may or may not be delayed. Continued exposure to the vapor & mist of nitric acid may result in a chronic bronchitis, & more severe exposure results in a chemical pneumonitis. The vapor & mists of nitric acid may erode the teeth, particularly affecting the canines & incisors.

---

**Section 4 - First Aid Measures**

**Eyes:** Get medical aid immediately. Do NOT allow victim to rub eyes or keep eyes closed. Extensive irrigation with water is required (at least 30 minutes).

**Skin:** Get medical aid immediately. Immediately flush skin with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes while removing contaminated clothing and shoes. Wash clothing before reuse. Destroy contaminated shoes.

**Ingestion:** Do not induce vomiting. If victim is conscious and alert, give 2-4 cupfuls of milk or water. Never give anything by mouth to an unconscious person. Get medical aid immediately.

**Inhalation:** Get medical aid immediately. Remove from exposure and move to fresh air immediately. If not breathing, give artificial respiration. If breathing is difficult, give oxygen. Do NOT use mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. If breathing has ceased apply artificial respiration using oxygen and a suitable mechanical device such as a bag and a mask.

**Notes to Physician:** Treat symptomatically and supportively.

---

**Section 5 - Fire Fighting Measures**

**General Information:** As in any fire, wear a self-contained breathing apparatus in pressure-demand, MSHA/NIOSH (approved or equivalent), and full protective gear. Strong oxidizer. Contact with other material may cause fire. During a fire, irritating and highly toxic gases may be generated by thermal decomposition or combustion. Use water spray to keep fire-exposed containers cool. May react with metal surfaces to form flammable and explosive hydrogen gas. Approach fire from upwind to avoid hazardous vapors and toxic decomposition products.

**Extinguishing Media:** Use extinguishing media most appropriate for the surrounding fire.

**Flash Point:** Not applicable.

**Autoignition Temperature:** Not available.

**Explosion Limits, Lower:** Not available.

**Upper:** Not available.

**NFPA Rating:** (estimated) Health: 4; Flammability: 0; Instability: 0; Special Hazard: OX
Section 6 - Accidental Release Measures

**General Information:** Use proper personal protective equipment as indicated in Section 8.

**Spills/Leaks:** Avoid runoff into storm sewers and ditches which lead to waterways. Clean up spills immediately, observing precautions in the Protective Equipment section. Absorb spill using an absorbent, non-combustible material such as earth, sand, or vermiculite. Do not use combustible materials such as sawdust. Provide ventilation. Evacuate unnecessary personnel. Approach spill from upwind. Use water spray to cool and disperse vapors and protect personnel.

Section 7 - Handling and Storage

**Handling:** Wash thoroughly after handling. Remove contaminated clothing and wash before reuse. Do not breathe dust, mist, or vapor. Do not get in eyes, on skin, or on clothing. Keep container tightly closed. Avoid contact with clothing and other combustible materials. Discard contaminated shoes. Do not use with metal spatula or other metal items. Use only with adequate ventilation or respiratory protection.

**Storage:** Do not store near combustible materials. Do not store in direct sunlight. Keep container closed when not in use. Store in a cool, dry, well-ventilated area away from incompatible substances. Keep away from metals. Store away from alkalies. Separate from organic materials. Inspect periodically for damage or evidence of leaks or corrosion.

Section 8 - Exposure Controls, Personal Protection

**Engineering Controls:** Facilities storing or utilizing this material should be equipped with an eyewash facility and a safety shower. Use adequate general or local exhaust ventilation to keep airborne concentrations below the permissible exposure limits. Use a corrosion-resistant ventilation system.

**Exposure Limits**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chemical Name</th>
<th>ACGIH</th>
<th>NIOSH</th>
<th>OSHA - Final PELs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>none listed</td>
<td>none listed</td>
<td>none listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitric acid</td>
<td>2 ppm TWA; 4 ppm STEL</td>
<td>2 ppm TWA; 5 mg/m³ TWA 25 ppm IDLH</td>
<td>2 ppm TWA; 5 mg/m³ TWA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OSHA Vacated PELs:** Water: No OSHA Vacated PELs are listed for this chemical. Nitric acid: 2 ppm TWA; 5 mg/m³ TWA

**Personal Protective Equipment**

**Eyes:** Wear chemical splash goggles and face shield.

**Skin:** Wear butyl rubber gloves, apron, and/or clothing.

**Clothing:** Wear appropriate clothing to prevent skin exposure.

**Respirators:** Follow the OSHA respirator regulations found in 29 CFR 1910.134 or European Standard EN 149. Use a NIOSH/MSHA or European Standard EN 149 approved respirator if exposure limits are exceeded or if irritation or other symptoms are experienced.

Section 9 - Physical and Chemical Properties
Physical State: Liquid
Appearance: clear to yellow
Odor: strong odor - acrid odor - suffocating odor
pH: 1.0 (0.1M soln)
Vapor Pressure: 51 mm Hg @ 25 deg C
Vapor Density: 2.17 (air=1)
Evaporation Rate: Not available.
Viscosity: 0.761 cps @ 25 deg C
Boiling Point: 86 deg C
Freezing/Melting Point: -42 deg C
Decomposition Temperature: Not available.
Solubility: Soluble in water.
Specific Gravity/Density: 1.4
Molecular Formula: HNO3
Molecular Weight: 63.01

Section 10 - Stability and Reactivity

Chemical Stability: Stable. Decomposes when in contact with air, light, or organic matter. The yellow color is due to release of nitrogen dioxide on exposure to light.
Conditions to Avoid: High temperatures, light, confined spaces.
Incompatibilities with Other Materials: Metals, reducing agents, strong bases, acetic acid, alcohols, acetone, aniline, hydrogen sulfide, metal powders, carbides, aldehydes, organic solvents, combustible materials, chromic acid, flammable liquids, cyanides, sulfides, Incompatible with many substances.
Hazardous Decomposition Products: Nitrogen oxides.
Hazardous Polymerization: Has not been reported.

Section 11 - Toxicological Information

RTECS#: 
CAS# 7732-18-5: ZC0110000
CAS# 7697-37-2: QU5775000; QU5900000
LD50/LC50: 
CAS# 7732-18-5: 
  Oral, rat: LD50 = >90 mL/kg;

CAS# 7697-37-2: 
  Inhalation, rat: LC50 = 260 mg/m3/30M;
  Inhalation, rat: LC50 = 130 mg/m3/4H;
  Inhalation, rat: LC50 = 67 ppm(NO2)/4H;

Carcinogenicity:
CAS# 7732-18-5: Not listed by ACGIH, IARC, NTP, or CA Prop 65.
CAS# 7697-37-2: Not listed by ACGIH, IARC, NTP, or CA Prop 65.

Epidemiology: No information found
Teratogenicity: No information found
Reproductive Effects: No information found
Mutagenicity: No information found
Neurotoxicity: No information found
Other Studies:

Section 12 - Ecological Information

Ecotoxicity: No data available. No information available.
Environmental: Terrestrial: During transport through the soil, nitric acid will dissolve some of the soil material, in particular, the carbonate based materials. The acid will be neutralized to some degree with adsorption of the proton also occurring on clay materials. However, significant amounts of acid are expected to remain for transport down toward the ground water table. Upon reaching the ground water table, the acid will continue to move, now in the direction of the ground water flow.
Physical: No information available.
Other: No information available.

Section 13 - Disposal Considerations

Chemical waste generators must determine whether a discarded chemical is classified as a hazardous waste. US EPA guidelines for the classification determination are listed in 40 CFR Parts 261.3. Additionally, waste generators must consult state and local hazardous waste regulations to ensure complete and accurate classification.
RCRA P-Series: None listed.
RCRA U-Series: None listed.

Section 14 - Transport Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>US DOT</th>
<th>Canada TDG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shipping Name:</td>
<td>NITRIC ACID</td>
<td>NITRIC ACID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazard Class:</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN Number:</td>
<td>UN2031</td>
<td>UN2031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Packing Group:</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>II</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Section 15 - Regulatory Information

US FEDERAL

TSCA
CAS# 7732-18-5 is listed on the TSCA inventory.
CAS# 7697-37-2 is listed on the TSCA inventory.

Health & Safety Reporting List
None of the chemicals are on the Health & Safety Reporting List.

Chemical Test Rules
None of the chemicals in this product are under a Chemical Test Rule.

Section 12b
None of the chemicals are listed under TSCA Section 12b.

TSCA Significant New Use Rule
None of the chemicals in this material have a SNUR under TSCA.

CERCLA Hazardous Substances and corresponding RQs
CAS# 7697-37-2: 1000 lb final RQ; 454 kg final RQ

SARA Section 302 Extremely Hazardous Substances
CAS# 7697-37-2: 1000 lb TPQ

SARA Codes
CAS # 7697-37-2: immediate, delayed, fire.

Section 313
This material contains Nitric acid (CAS# 7697-37-2, 20-70%), which is subject to the reporting requirements of Section 313 of SARA Title III and 40 CFR Part 373.

Clean Air Act:
This material does not contain any hazardous air pollutants.
This material does not contain any Class 1 Ozone depletors.
This material does not contain any Class 2 Ozone depletors.

Clean Water Act:
CAS# 7697-37-2 is listed as a Hazardous Substance under the CWA.
None of the chemicals in this product are listed as Priority Pollutants under the CWA.
None of the chemicals in this product are listed as Toxic Pollutants under the CWA.

OSHA:
CAS# 7697-37-2 is considered highly hazardous by OSHA.

STATE
CAS# 7732-18-5 is not present on state lists from CA, PA, MN, MA, FL, or NJ.
CAS# 7697-37-2 can be found on the following state right to know lists: California, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Massachusetts.

California Prop 65
California No Significant Risk Level: None of the chemicals in this product are listed.

European/International Regulations
European Labeling in Accordance with EC Directives
Hazard Symbols:
- C

Risk Phrases:
- R 35 Causes severe burns.

Safety Phrases:
- S 23 Do not inhale gas/fumes/vapour/spray.
- S 26 In case of contact with eyes, rinse immediately with plenty of water and seek medical advice.
- S 36 Wear suitable protective clothing.
- S 45 In case of accident or if you feel unwell, seek medical advice immediately (show the label where possible).

WGK (Water Danger/Protection)
CAS# 7732-18-5: No information available.
CAS# 7697-37-2: 1

Canada - DSL/NDSL
CAS# 7732-18-5 is listed on Canada's DSL List.
CAS# 7697-37-2 is listed on Canada's DSL List.

**Canada - WHMIS**

This product has a WHMIS classification of E, C, D1A. This product has been classified in accordance with the hazard criteria of the Controlled Products Regulations and the MSDS contains all of the information required by those regulations.

**Canadian Ingredient Disclosure List**

CAS# 7697-37-2 is listed on the Canadian Ingredient Disclosure List.

---

### Section 16 - Additional Information

**MSDS Creation Date:** 9/30/1998  
**Revision #16 Date:** 2/11/2008

The information above is believed to be accurate and represents the best information currently available to us. However, we make no warranty of merchantability or any other warranty, express or implied, with respect to such information, and we assume no liability resulting from its use. Users should make their own investigations to determine the suitability of the information for their particular purposes. In no event shall Fisher be liable for any claims, losses, or damages of any third party or for lost profits or any special, indirect, incidental, consequential or exemplary damages, howsoever arising, even if Fisher has been advised of the possibility of such damages.