Other alcohols

including **hexanol**, **cyclohexanol** *and* **octanols**

Substance	Hazard	Comment
hexan-1-ol (*n*-hexyl alcohol) *liquid*	 **FLAMMABLE**  **HARMFUL**	WARNING: Flammable liquid and vapour. Harmful is swallowed and in contact with skin. Causes skin irritation and serious eye irritation. Harmful if inhaled and may cause respiratory irritation.
cyclohexanol **heptan-1-ol** (*n*-heptyl alcohol) **octan-1-ol** (*n*-octyl alcohol) *liquids*	 **HARMFUL**	WARNING: Harmful is swallowed and in contact with skin. Causes skin irritation and serious eye irritation. Harmful if inhaled and may cause respiratory irritation. Cyclohexanol is a viscous liquid (or 'sticky' solid on cool days). If melting is required, place the container in a bag, then in warm water and loosen the lid slightly.
octan-2-ol (*iso*-octyl alcohol) *liquid*	 **CORROSIVE**  **HARMFUL**	DANGER: Causes serious eye damage. Harmful is swallowed and in contact with skin. Causes skin irritation and serious eye irritation. Harmful if inhaled and may cause respiratory irritation.
hexadecanol (cetyl/palmityl alcohol) *waxy solid*	**Currently not classified as hazardous**	Used in skin creams, lotions and shampoos, and as a lubricant.

Typical control measures to reduce risk

- Wear eye protection.
- Ensure the laboratory is well ventilated. Avoid inhaling fumes. Consider using a fume cupboard when dispensing/transferring the liquids.
- Check equipment to put out fires, eg damp cloth, bench mat, fire blanket.
- Do not use near naked flames; if heating is necessary, use an electrically-heated water bath or hot water from kettle.
- **NEVER** boil or distil organic liquids to dryness. Some, such as propan-2-ol and other secondary alcohols, present a remote explosion risk due to the presence of peroxides.

Assessing the risks

- What are the details of the activity to be undertaken? What are the hazards?
- What is the chance of something going wrong?
  eg does alcohol need to be heated? Could there be high levels of vapour?
- How serious would it be if something did go wrong?
- How can the risk(s) be controlled for this activity?
  eg can it be done safely? Does the procedure need to be altered? Should goggles or safety spectacles be worn?

Emergency action

In all emergency situations, alert the responsible adult immediately. Be aware that actions may include the following:

- In the eye — Irrigate the eye with gently-running tap water for at least 20 minutes. Call 999/111.
- Vapour breathed in — Remove the casualty to fresh air. Keep them warm. Call 999/111 if breathing is difficult.
- In the mouth swallowed — Do no more than rinse and spit with drinking water. Do **not** induce vomiting. Call 999/111
- Clothing catches fire — Smother flames on clothing or the skin with a fire blanket or other material. Cool any burnt skin with gently-running tap water for 20 minutes. Call 999/111 if the area of burn is larger than a small coin.
- Other fires — Allow fires in sinks etc to burn out. Fires at the top of test tubes, beakers, etc should be smothered with a damp cloth or heat-resistant mat.
- Spilt on the skin or clothing — Remove contaminated clothing. If more than a test tube amount was involved, wash the affected area and clothing with plenty of water.
- Spilt on the floor, bench, etc — Put out Bunsen flames. Wipe up small amounts with cloth and rinse it well. For larger amounts, open windows, cover with mineral absorbent (eg, cat litter), scoop into a bucket and add water.

