

HazCom Terms & Abbreviations

Absorbed dose The amount of a substance that actually enters into the body, usually expressed as milligrams of substance per kilogram of body weight (mg/kg).

Action level The exposure level at which OSHA regulations take effect. Exposure at or above action level is termed occupational exposure.

Acute dose The amount of a substance administered or received over a very short period of time (minutes or hours), usually within 24 hours.

Acute exposure An exposure to a toxic substance which occurs in a short or single time period.

Acute toxicity Acute effects resulting from a single dose of, or exposure to, a substance. Ordinarily used to denote effects in experimental animals.

ALARA As Low As Reasonably Achievable. Often used in reference to reducing exposure to levels that are as low as can be achieved.

Allergic reaction An abnormal immunologic response in a person who has become hypersensitive to a specific substance. Some forms of dermatitis and asthma may be caused by allergic reactions to chemicals.

Allergy An abnormal physical response to chemical and physical stimuli which occurs in about 10 percent of the population.

Alopecia The loss of hair, which can be caused by chemical exposure.

Anesthetic effect The temporary loss of feeling induced by certain chemical agents, which reduce the ability to feel pain or other sensations.

Anhydrous Not containing any water molecules. Some anhydrous chemicals are very water reactive.