

Radionuclide Safety Data Sheet

RADIONUCLIDE: Hg-203

FORMS: Soluble

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Half-life: 46.6 days

DECAY EMISSIONS

Gammas / X-rays		Betas / Positrons (+) / Electrons		Alphas	
E (keV)	%	E (keV, max)	%	E (keV)	%
71	4	212	100		
73	6	194	14		
279	82	264	4		

Only the four most likely emissions of each type are included. Emission must be > 10 keV and > 1% frequency.

NIH HAZARD CATEGORY

C – level (low hazard): ≤ 7.5 mCi - No DRS protocol required

B – level (moderate hazard): > 7.5 mCi and ≤ 15 mCi - DRS approval required for ceiling increase

A – level (high hazard): > 15 mCi - DRS protocol required

EXTERNAL RADIATION HAZARDS

Gamma dose rate, point source @ 1 foot, 1 mCi:

1.64 mrem/hr

Beta dose rate to skin, point source @ 1 foot, 1 mCi:

15 mrem/hr

Contamination skin dose, uniform deposit of 1 $\mu\text{Ci}/\text{cm}^2$

3300 mrem/hr

INTERNAL RADIATION HAZARDS

Annual Limit on Intake:

Ingestion: 500 μCi

Inhalation: 800 μCi

The value(s) above indicate the activity taken into the body that would result in either 5 rem to the whole body (CEDE) or 50 rem to an organ or tissue (CDE).

SHIELDING

Gammas/X-rays:

4.25 mm Pb will decrease exposure by 90%.

Betas/electrons:

0.6 mm Lucite will stop all betas. Lead may be needed if Bremsstrahlung is detectable through plastic.

DOSIMETRY AND BIOASSAY REQS

Dosimetry may be required when working with Hg-203. Fill out Dosimetry Evaluation Form, and DRS will determine if it is required.

Whole body count may be required after spills, contamination, or other abnormal occurrences.

SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS:

1. Contamination monitoring for Hg-203 should be performed with a pancake GM probe. Typical GM probe efficiency is 8%.
2. Hg-203 should be handled with remote tools when possible.
3. Ensure Hg-203 is properly shielded when in storage and use. Shield waste containers containing Hg-203 waste.
4. Always wear lab coat, gloves, and protective eyewear when handling Hg-203.
5. Source vials must be secured in a locked container when not in use.
6. Hg-203 waste must be segregated from long half-life radionuclides (> 120 days). Multi-hazard waste must be segregated from short and long half-life radionuclides (≤ 30 days and > 120 days respectively).

References:

- National Institutes of Health Division of Radiation Safety, DRS-214 Form - Activity Control System - Cumulative Inventory Ceilings, Revised 10/4/2021.
- Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 10 Code of Federal Regulation Part 20 Appendix B.
- National Institute of Standards and Technology, ESTAR: Stopping Power and Range Tables for Electrons, July 2017
- Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Varskin+ Version 1.0
- Smith, D., Stabin, M. Exposure Rate Constants and Lead Shielding Values for over 1,100 Radionuclides. Health Physics Journal. March 2012.
- Stanford Environmental Health and Safety. Safety Fact Sheets. <https://ehs.stanford.edu/safety-fact-sheets>