



RADIONUCLIDE SAFETY DATA SHEET

RADIONUCLIDE: Fe-55

FORMS: Soluble

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Half-life: 2.74 Years

DECAY EMISSIONS

Gammas / X-rays		Betas / Positrons (+) / Electrons		Alphas	
E (keV)	%	E (keV, max)	%	E (keV)	%
5.9	24.52	0.6	139		
6.5	3.29	5.2	60.7		
0.6	0.42				

NIH HAZARD CATEGORY

C – level (low hazard): ≤ 15 mCi - No DRS protocol required

B – level (moderate hazard): > 15 mCi and ≤ 30 mCi - DRS approval required for ceiling increase

A – level (high hazard): > 30 mCi - DRS protocol required

EXTERNAL RADIATION HAZARDS

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

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

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

INTERNAL RADIATION HAZARDS

Annual Limit on Intake:

Ingestion: 9 mCi

Inhalation: 2 mCi

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:

n/a

Betas/electrons:

n/a

DOSIMETRY AND BIOASSAY REQS

No dosimetry required.

Urine bioassay may be required after spills, contamination, or other abnormal occurrences.

SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS:

1. Detection efficiency of Fe-55 with a Sodium Iodide probe is very low. Contamination monitoring should be done with smears counted in a liquid scintillation counter.
2. Always wear lab coat, gloves, and protective eyewear when handling Fe-55.
3. Source vials must be secured in a locked container when not in use.
4. Fe-55 waste must be segregated from short half-life radionuclides (≤ 120 days). Multi-hazard waste must be segregated from short and medium half-life radionuclides (≤ 30 days and > 30 days but ≤ 120 days respectively).

References:

- Brookhaven National Laboratory, National Nuclear Data Center, Decay Radiation Search, Version 3/25/2022.
- National Institutes of Health Division of Radiation Safety, DRS-214 Form - Activity Control System - Cumulative Inventory Ceilings, Revised 10/4/2021.
- Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Varskin+ Version 1.0
- Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 10 Code of Federal Regulation Part 20 Appendix B.
- Health Physics Society. Radionuclide Decay Data.
- Stanford Environmental Health and Safety. Safety Fact Sheets. <https://ehs.stanford.edu/safety-fact-sheets>
- [Ehs.stanford.edu/reference Radionuclide Fact Sheets](https://ehs.stanford.edu/reference/Radionuclide%20Fact%20Sheets)