

FORMALDEHYDE

FOR SAFETY

Formaldehyde is a **naturally occurring substance**. In every day life it is used to make products more effective, stronger and safer. In industrial settings its use is closely monitored to ensure workers safety.

A NATURALLY OCCURRING SUBSTANCE

Formaldehyde occurs throughout nature. In fact, all natural items contain formaldehyde.



Humans
produce about
24 g per day^[1]



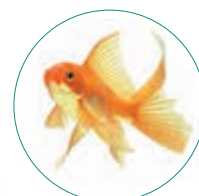
Apples
6 mg/kg^[4]



Coffee
3.95 mg/kg^[2]



Maple Tree
2.39 - 8.92/kg^[5]



Fish
11 mg/kg^[3]

KEEPING CONSUMERS SAFE

In many different practical uses, formaldehyde plays a key enabling role in things that make our lives safer and more healthy.



Seatbelts

Seatbelt red release buttons are made from formaldehyde based polyacetal (POM) resin.



Vaccines

Formaldehyde is used to inactivate viruses to ensure vaccines are safe to use.



Vehicle Handling

Phenol formaldehyde (PF) resins are used to make friction resistant clutches, transmissions, and brake pads

KEEPING WORKERS SAFE

To ensure workers are exposed to minimal emissions of formaldehyde. **Formacare members are committed to a voluntary exposure limit** of 0.3 ppm (particles per million) over 8 hours^[6].

Why 0.3 ppm? The EU's SCOEL^[7] found exposure beneath this level keeps workers safe and **protects them from irritation and odour**^[8].



References:

- 1 – European Chemicals Agency – Formaldehyde 'Toxicological Information'
- 2, 3, 4 – American Chemistry Council – 'Formaldehyde occurs naturally and is all around us'
- 5 – L. Lagace et al. 'Determination of naturally occurring formaldehyde levels in sap and wood tissue of maple trees using gas chromatography/mass spectrometry'
- 6 – Formacare 'Voluntary Agreement regarding the implementation of OELs for formaldehyde Formacare members'
- 7 – Scientific Committee on Occupational Exposure Limits
- 8 – SCOEL 'SCOEL/REC/125 Formaldehyde Recommendation from the Scientific Committee on Occupational Exposure Limits'