

## COSHH RISK AND SAFETY ASSESSMENT

### PUREOL HAND & SURFACE SANITISER

#### General Safety Issues:

The main safety issues relate to the flammability of alcohol-based sanitiser and the adverse effects associated with accidental or deliberate ingestion. These are summarised in the Summary table of risks and mitigation measures concerning the use of alcohol-based hand hygiene preparations.

#### Flammability – Flash Point:

The flash point of isopropyl alcohol 75% (v/v) is 19°C. Storage facilities should be ideally air-conditioned or cool rooms. Open flames and smoking must be strictly prohibited in storage areas.

#### Summary Table of Risks and Mitigation Measures

<u>Risk</u>	<u>Mitigation</u>
Fire – storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Store away from high temperatures or flames</li><li>• Water or aqueous (water) film-forming foam (AFFF) should be used in case of fire</li><li>• No naked flames or smoking should be permitted in storage areas.</li><li>• A designated 'highly flammables' store will be required for situations where it is necessary to store more than 50 litres.</li><li>• Containers and dispenser cartridges containing sanitiser should be stored in a cool place away from sources of ignition.</li><li>• The quantity of sanitiser kept in a department should be as small as is reasonably practicable for day-to-day purposes.</li></ul>
Fire – disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rinse out used containers with copious amounts of cold water to reduce the risk of fire (the containers may then be recycled or disposed of in general waste).</li></ul>
Fire – location of dispensers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sanitiser dispensers should not be placed above or close to potential sources of ignition, such as light switches and electrical outlets, or next to oxygen or other gas outlets (because of the increased risk of vapours igniting).</li></ul>
Fire – spillage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Significant spillages should be dealt with immediately by removing all sources of ignition, ventilating the area, and diluting the spillage with water (to at least 10-times the volume).</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The fluid should then be absorbed by an inert material such as dry sand (not a combustible material such as sawdust), which should be disposed of in a chemical waste container.</li> <li>• Vapours should be dispersed by ventilating the room (or vehicle), and the contaminated item should be put in a plastic bag until it can be washed and/or dried safely.</li> </ul>
Ingestion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In areas where there is thought to be a high risk of ingestion, a staff-carried product is advised.</li> <li>• If a wall-mounted product is used, consideration should be given to small bottles.</li> <li>• If bottles with a greater capacity than 500 ml are used, consideration should be given to providing them in secured containers.</li> <li>• Product containers may be labelled simply as "antimicrobial sanitisers" with a warning of dangers associated with ingestion.</li> <li>• National and local toxicology specialists should be involved in developing and issuing national/local guidance on how to deal with ingestion (based on products available within a country).</li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration should be given to the risks associated with spillage onto floor coverings, including the risk of pedestrian slips – it is important to deal with spillages immediately.</li> <li>• The siting of sanitiser dispensers above carpets is not recommended, because of the risk of damage and lifting/warping of carpets.</li> </ul>