

SAFETY DATA SHEET

according to the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard



Interferon Alfa-2b Liquid Formulation

Version 11.0 Revision Date: 05/09/2026 SDS Number: 42818-00023 Date of last issue: 12/06/2025
Date of first issue: 01/07/2015

SECTION 1. IDENTIFICATION

Product name : Interferon Alfa-2b Liquid Formulation

Manufacturer or supplier's details

Company name of supplier : Merck & Co., Inc
Address : 126 E. Lincoln Avenue
Rahway, New Jersey U.S.A. 07065
Telephone : 908-740-4000
Emergency telephone : 1-908-423-6000
E-mail address : EHSDATASTEWARD@merck.com

Recommended use of the chemical and restrictions on use

Recommended use : Pharmaceutical
Restrictions on use : Not applicable

SECTION 2. HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION

GHS classification in accordance with the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard (29 CFR 1910.1200)


Hazards for the product as supplied

Reproductive toxicity : Category 1B
Specific target organ toxicity : Category 2 (Blood, Bone marrow)
- repeated exposure

Other hazards

None known.

GHS label elements

Hazard pictograms : 

Signal Word : Danger

Hazard Statements : H360FD May damage fertility. May damage the unborn child.
H373 May cause damage to organs (Blood, Bone marrow) through prolonged or repeated exposure.

Precautionary Statements : **Prevention:**
P201 Obtain special instructions before use.
P202 Do not handle until all safety precautions have been read and understood.
P260 Do not breathe mist or vapors.
P280 Wear protective gloves, protective clothing, eye protection and face protection.

Response:

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P308 + P313 IF exposed or concerned: Get medical attention.

Storage:

P405 Store locked up.

Disposal:

P501 Dispose of contents and container to an approved waste disposal plant.

SECTION 3. COMPOSITION/INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS

Substance / Mixture : Mixture

Components

Chemical name	CAS No./Unique ID	Concentration (% w/w)	Trade secret
m-Cresol	108-39-4*	$\geq 0.1 - \leq 1$	TSC
Interferon alfa-2b	98530-12-2*	$> 0 - \leq 0.1$	TSC

* Indicates that the identifier is a CAS No.

TSC- the actual concentration or concentration range is withheld as a trade secret

SECTION 4. FIRST AID MEASURES

- General advice : In the case of accident or if you feel unwell, seek medical advice immediately.
When symptoms persist or in all cases of doubt seek medical advice.
- If inhaled : If inhaled, remove to fresh air.
Get medical attention.
- In case of skin contact : In case of contact, immediately flush skin with soap and plenty of water.
Remove contaminated clothing and shoes.
Get medical attention.
Wash clothing before reuse.
Thoroughly clean shoes before reuse.
- In case of eye contact : Flush eyes with water as a precaution.
Get medical attention if irritation develops and persists.
- If swallowed : If swallowed, DO NOT induce vomiting.
Get medical attention.
Rinse mouth thoroughly with water.
- Most important symptoms and effects, both acute and delayed : May damage fertility. May damage the unborn child.
May cause damage to organs through prolonged or repeated exposure.
- Protection of first-aiders : First Aid responders should pay attention to self-protection, and use the recommended personal protective equipment when the potential for exposure exists (see section 8).
- Notes to physician : Treat symptomatically and supportively.

SECTION 5. FIRE-FIGHTING MEASURES

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- Suitable extinguishing media : Water spray
Alcohol-resistant foam
Carbon dioxide (CO₂)
Dry chemical
- Unsuitable extinguishing media : None known.
- Specific hazards during fire fighting : Exposure to combustion products may be a hazard to health.
- Hazardous combustion products : No hazardous combustion products are known
- Specific extinguishing methods : Use extinguishing measures that are appropriate to local circumstances and the surrounding environment.
Use water spray to cool unopened containers.
Remove undamaged containers from fire area if it is safe to do so.
Evacuate area.
- Special protective equipment for fire-fighters : In the event of fire, wear self-contained breathing apparatus.
Use personal protective equipment.
-

SECTION 6. ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES

- Personal precautions, protective equipment and emergency procedures : Use personal protective equipment.
Follow safe handling advice (see section 7) and personal protective equipment recommendations (see section 8).
- Environmental precautions : Avoid release to the environment.
Prevent further leakage or spillage if safe to do so.
Prevent spreading over a wide area (e.g., by containment or oil barriers).
Retain and dispose of contaminated wash water.
Local authorities should be advised if significant spillages cannot be contained.
- Methods and materials for containment and cleaning up : Soak up with inert absorbent material.
For large spills, provide diking or other appropriate containment to keep material from spreading. If diked material can be pumped, store recovered material in appropriate container.
Clean up remaining materials from spill with suitable absorbent.
Local or national regulations may apply to releases and disposal of this material, as well as those materials and items employed in the cleanup of releases. You will need to determine which regulations are applicable.
Sections 13 and 15 of this SDS provide information regarding certain local or national requirements.

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SECTION 7. HANDLING AND STORAGE

- Technical measures : See Engineering measures under EXPOSURE CONTROLS/PERSONAL PROTECTION section.
- Local/Total ventilation : If sufficient ventilation is unavailable, use with local exhaust ventilation.
- Advice on safe handling : Do not get on skin or clothing.
Do not breathe mist or vapors.
Do not swallow.
Avoid contact with eyes.
Handle in accordance with good industrial hygiene and safety practice, based on the results of the workplace exposure assessment
Keep container tightly closed.
Take care to prevent spills, waste and minimize release to the environment.
- Conditions for safe storage : Keep in properly labeled containers.
Store locked up.
Keep tightly closed.
Store in accordance with the particular national regulations.
- Materials to avoid : Do not store with the following product types:
Strong oxidizing agents
Self-reactive substances and mixtures
Organic peroxides
Explosives
Gases

SECTION 8. EXPOSURE CONTROLS/PERSONAL PROTECTION

Ingredients with workplace control parameters

Components	CAS-No.	Value type (Form of exposure)	Control parameters / Permissible concentration	Basis
m-Cresol	108-39-4	TWA	2.3 ppm 10 mg/m ³	NIOSH REL
		TWA	5 ppm 22 mg/m ³	OSHA Z-1
		TWA (Inhalable fraction and vapor)	20 mg/m ³	ACGIH
Interferon alfa-2b	98530-12-2	TWA	0.2 µg/m ³ (OEB 5)	Internal
		Wipe limit	2 µg/100 cm ²	Internal

- Engineering measures** : The information below is intended for larger pilot/commercial-scale operations and manufacturing. For smaller scale, clinical, or pharmacy settings, site-specific internal risk assessment practices should be conducted to determine appropriate exposure control measures. The health hazard risks of handling this material are dependent on multiple factors, including but not limited to physical form and quantity

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handled. If applicable, use process enclosures, local exhaust ventilation (e.g., Biosafety Cabinet, Ventilated Balance Enclosures), or other engineering controls to maintain airborne levels below recommended exposure limits. If exposure limits have not been established, maintain airborne levels as low as reasonably achievable.

Use closed processing systems or containment technologies to control at source (e.g., glove boxes/isolators) and to prevent leakage of compounds into the workplace.

All engineering controls should be implemented by facility design and operated in accordance with GMP principles to protect products, workers, and the environment.

No open handling permitted.

Totally enclosed processes and materials transport systems are required.

Operations require the use of appropriate containment technology designed to prevent leakage of compounds into the workplace.

Personal protective equipment

Respiratory protection : No personal respiratory protective equipment normally required.

Hand protection

Material : Chemical-resistant gloves

Remarks : Consider double gloving.

Eye protection : Wear safety glasses with side shields or goggles.
If the work environment or activity involves dusty conditions, mists or aerosols, wear the appropriate goggles.
Wear a faceshield or other full face protection if there is a potential for direct contact to the face with dusts, mists, or aerosols.

Skin and body protection : Work uniform or laboratory coat.
Additional body garments should be used based upon the task being performed (e.g., sleevelets, apron, gauntlets, disposable suits) to avoid exposed skin surfaces.
Use appropriate degowning techniques to remove potentially contaminated clothing.

Hygiene measures : If exposure to chemical is likely during typical use, provide eye flushing systems and safety showers close to the working place.
When using do not eat, drink or smoke.
Wash contaminated clothing before re-use.
The effective operation of a facility should include review of engineering controls, proper personal protective equipment, appropriate degowning and decontamination procedures, industrial hygiene monitoring, medical surveillance and the use of administrative controls.

SECTION 9. PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

Appearance : liquid

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Color : colorless

Odor : No data available

Odor Threshold : No data available

pH : 6.5 - 8

Melting point/freezing point : No data available

Initial boiling point and boiling range : No data available

Flash point : No data available

Evaporation rate : No data available

Flammability (solid, gas) : Not applicable

Flammability (liquids) : No data available

Upper explosion limit / Upper flammability limit : No data available

Lower explosion limit / Lower flammability limit : No data available

Vapor pressure : No data available

Relative vapor density : No data available

Relative density : No data available

Density : No data available

Solubility(ies)
Water solubility : No data available

Partition coefficient: n-octanol/water : Not applicable

Autoignition temperature : No data available

Decomposition temperature : No data available

Viscosity
Viscosity, kinematic : No data available

Explosive properties : Not explosive

Oxidizing properties : The substance or mixture is not classified as oxidizing.

Molecular weight : Not applicable

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Particle characteristics
Particle size : Not applicable

SECTION 10. STABILITY AND REACTIVITY

Reactivity : Not classified as a reactivity hazard.
Chemical stability : Stable under normal conditions.
Possibility of hazardous reactions : Can react with strong oxidizing agents.
Conditions to avoid : None known.
Incompatible materials : Oxidizing agents
Hazardous decomposition products : No hazardous decomposition products are known.

SECTION 11. TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Information on likely routes of exposure

Inhalation
Skin contact
Ingestion
Eye contact

Acute toxicity

Not classified based on available information.

Product:

Acute oral toxicity : Acute toxicity estimate: > 5,000 mg/kg
Method: Calculation method

Components:

m-Cresol:

Acute oral toxicity : LD50 (Rat, male): 242 mg/kg
Method: OECD Test Guideline 401
Remarks: The test was conducted equivalent or similar to guideline
Acute inhalation toxicity : Assessment: Corrosive to the respiratory tract.
Acute dermal toxicity : LD50 (Rat): 1,100 mg/kg

Skin corrosion/irritation

Not classified based on available information.

Components:

m-Cresol:

Species : Rabbit
Result : Corrosive after 4 hours or less of exposure

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Interferon alfa-2b:

Species : Rat
Result : Skin irritation

Serious eye damage/eye irritation

Not classified based on available information.

Components:

m-Cresol:

Species : Rabbit
Result : Irreversible effects on the eye

Interferon alfa-2b:

Species : Rabbit
Remarks : slight irritation

Respiratory or skin sensitization

Skin sensitization

Not classified based on available information.

Respiratory sensitization

Not classified based on available information.

Germ cell mutagenicity

Not classified based on available information.

Components:

m-Cresol:

Genotoxicity in vitro : Test Type: Bacterial reverse mutation assay (AMES)
Method: OECD Test Guideline 471
Result: negative
Remarks: The test was conducted according to guideline

Test Type: In vitro mammalian cell gene mutation test
Method: OECD Test Guideline 476
Result: negative
Remarks: The test was conducted equivalent or similar to guideline

Test Type: Chromosome aberration test in vitro
Method: OECD Test Guideline 473
Result: positive
Remarks: The test was conducted according to guideline

Genotoxicity in vivo : Test Type: Mutagenicity (in vivo mammalian bone-marrow cytogenetic test, chromosomal analysis)
Species: Mouse
Application Route: Ingestion
Method: OECD Test Guideline 475
Result: negative

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Result: Embryo-lethal effects.

Reproductive toxicity - Assessment : May damage fertility. May damage the unborn child.

STOT-single exposure

Not classified based on available information.

STOT-repeated exposure

May cause damage to organs (Blood, Bone marrow) through prolonged or repeated exposure.

Components:

Interferon alfa-2b:

Target Organs : Blood, Bone marrow
Assessment : May cause damage to organs through prolonged or repeated exposure.

Repeated dose toxicity

Components:

m-Cresol:

Species : Rat
NOAEL : 150 mg/kg
Application Route : Ingestion
Exposure time : 13 Weeks
Method : OECD Test Guideline 408
Remarks : The test was conducted according to guideline

Interferon alfa-2b:

Species : Monkey
NOAEL : 0.095 mg/kg
Application Route : Intramuscular
Exposure time : 1 Months
Remarks : No significant adverse effects were reported

Species : Rat
NOAEL : 0.38 mg/kg
Application Route : Subcutaneous
Exposure time : 3 Months
Remarks : No significant adverse effects were reported

Species : Mouse
NOAEL : 0.076 mg/kg
Application Route : Intraperitoneal
Exposure time : 9 d
Remarks : No significant adverse effects were reported

Species : Monkey
LOAEL : 0.38 mg/kg
Application Route : Intramuscular
Exposure time : 3 Months
Target Organs : Blood, Bone marrow

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||Remarks : Significant toxicity observed in testing

Aspiration toxicity

Not classified based on available information.

Experience with human exposure

Components:

Interferon alfa-2b:

||Skin contact : Symptoms: The most common side effects are:, flu-like symptoms, Fever, chills, Fatigue

SECTION 12. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Ecotoxicity

Components:

m-Cresol:

||Toxicity to fish : LC50 (Salvelinus fontinalis (Brook trout)): 7.6 mg/l
Exposure time: 96 h

||Toxicity to daphnia and other aquatic invertebrates : EC50 (Daphnia sp. (Water flea)): > 99.5 mg/l
Exposure time: 48 h
Method: EPA OPP 72-2
Remarks: The test was conducted according to guideline

||Toxicity to algae/aquatic plants : EC10 (Microcystis aeruginosa (blue-green algae)): > 13 mg/l
Exposure time: 8 d

ErC50 (Microcystis aeruginosa (blue-green algae)): > 13 mg/l
Exposure time: 8 d

Persistence and degradability

Components:

m-Cresol:

||Biodegradability : Result: Readily biodegradable.
Biodegradation: 90 %
Exposure time: 28 d
Method: OECD Test Guideline 301D
Remarks: The test was conducted according to guideline

||Biodegradation Simulation Tests : Environmental Compartment: Soil
Value type: DT50
Value: 11.3 d
Temperature: 20 °C

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Bioaccumulative potential

Components:

m-Cresol:

Bioaccumulation : Species: Leuciscus idus melanotus (Ide)
Bioconcentration factor (BCF): 17 - 20

Partition coefficient: n-octanol/water : log Pow: 1.96
Remarks: No test guideline followed

Mobility in soil

Components:

m-Cresol:

Distribution among environmental compartments : log Koc: 1.54
Method: OECD Test Guideline 106
Remarks: The test was conducted equivalent or similar to guideline

Other adverse effects

No data available

Endocrine disrupting properties

No data available

SECTION 13. DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS

Disposal methods

Waste from residues : Dispose of in accordance with local regulations.
Do not dispose of waste into sewer.
Contaminated packaging : Empty containers should be taken to an approved waste handling site for recycling or disposal.
If not otherwise specified: Dispose of as unused product.

SECTION 14. TRANSPORT INFORMATION

International Regulations

UNRTDG

Not regulated as a dangerous good

IATA-DGR

Not regulated as a dangerous good

IMDG-Code

Not regulated as a dangerous good

Transport in bulk according to IMO instruments

Not applicable for product as supplied.

Domestic regulation

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Not regulated as a dangerous good

Special precautions for user

Not applicable

SECTION 15. REGULATORY INFORMATION

CERCLA Reportable Quantity

Components	CAS-No.	Component RQ (lbs)	Calculated product RQ (lbs)
m-Cresol	108-39-4	100	66666

SARA 304 Extremely Hazardous Substances Reportable Quantity

This material does not contain any components with a section 304 EHS RQ.

SARA 302 Extremely Hazardous Substances Threshold Planning Quantity

This material does not contain any components with a section 302 EHS TPQ.

SARA 311/312 Hazards : Reproductive toxicity
Specific target organ toxicity (single or repeated exposure)

SARA 313 : This material does not contain any chemical components with known CAS numbers that exceed the threshold (De Minimis) reporting levels established by SARA Title III, Section 313.

US State Regulations

Pennsylvania Right To Know

Water	7732-18-5
Disodium hydrogenorthophosphate	7558-79-4
m-Cresol	108-39-4

The ingredients of this product are reported in the following inventories:

AICS : not determined
CA. DSL : not determined
CN IECSC : not determined

SECTION 16. OTHER INFORMATION

Further information

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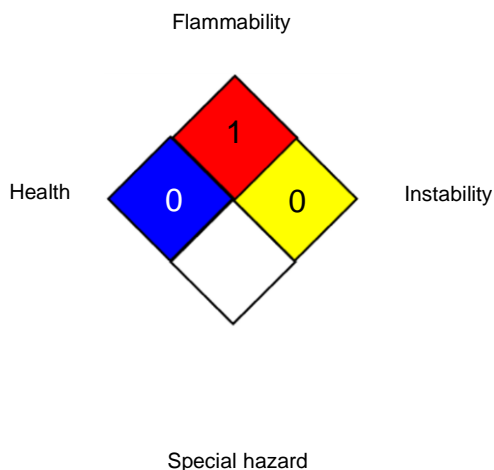
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NFPA 704:



HMIS® IV / CED:

HEALTH	*	2
FLAMMABILITY		1
PHYSICAL HAZARD		0

HMIS® ratings are based on a 0-4 rating scale, with 0 representing minimal hazards or risks, and 4 representing significant hazards or risks. The "*" represents a chronic hazard, while the "/" represents the absence of a chronic hazard.

Full text of other abbreviations

ACGIH	:	USA. ACGIH Threshold Limit Values (TLV)
NIOSH REL	:	USA. NIOSH Recommended Exposure Limits
OSHA Z-1	:	USA. Occupational Exposure Limits (OSHA) - Table Z-1 Limits for Air Contaminants
ACGIH / TWA	:	8-hour, time-weighted average
NIOSH REL / TWA	:	Time-weighted average concentration for up to a 10-hour workday during a 40-hour workweek
OSHA Z-1 / TWA	:	8-hour time weighted average

AIIC - Australian Inventory of Industrial Chemicals; ASTM - American Society for the Testing of Materials; bw - Body weight; CERCLA - Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act; CMR - Carcinogen, Mutagen or Reproductive Toxicant; DIN - Standard of the German Institute for Standardization; DOT - Department of Transportation; DSL - Domestic Substances List (Canada); ECx - Concentration associated with x% response; EHS - Extremely Hazardous Substance; ELx - Loading rate associated with x% response; EmS - Emergency Schedule; ENCS - Existing and New Chemical Substances (Japan); ErCx - Concentration associated with x% growth rate response; ERG - Emergency Response Guide; GHS - Globally Harmonized System; GLP - Good Laboratory Practice; HMIS - Hazardous Materials Identification System; IARC - International Agency for Research on Cancer; IATA - International Air Transport Association; IBC - International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk; IC50 - Half maximal inhibitory concentration; ICAO - International Civil Aviation Organization; IECSC - Inventory of Existing Chemical Substances in China; IMDG - International Maritime Dangerous Goods; IMO - International Maritime Organization; ISHL - Industrial Safety and Health Law (Japan); ISO - International Organization for Standardization; KECI - Korea Existing Chemicals Inventory; LC50 - Lethal Concentration to 50 % of a test population; LD50 - Lethal Dose to 50% of a test population (Median Lethal Dose); MARPOL - International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships; MSHA - Mine Safety and Health Administration; n.o.s. - Not Otherwise Specified; NFPA - National Fire Protection Association; NO(A)EC - No Observed (Adverse) Effect Concentration; NO(A)EL - No Observed (Adverse) Effect Level; NOELR - No Observable Effect Loading Rate; NTP - National Toxicology Program; NZIoC - New Zealand Inventory of Chemicals; OECD - Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development; OPPTS - Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention; PBT - Persistent, Bioaccumulative and Toxic sub-

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stance; PICCS - Philippines Inventory of Chemicals and Chemical Substances; (Q)SAR - (Quantitative) Structure Activity Relationship; RCRA - Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; REACH - Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals; RQ - Reportable Quantity; SADT - Self-Accelerating Decomposition Temperature; SARA - Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act; SDS - Safety Data Sheet; TCSI - Taiwan Chemical Substance Inventory; TECI - Thailand Existing Chemicals Inventory; TSCA - Toxic Substances Control Act (United States); UN - United Nations; UNRTDG - United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods; vPvB - Very Persistent and Very Bioaccumulative

Sources of key data used to compile the Material Safety Data Sheet : Internal technical data, data from raw material SDSs, OECD eChem Portal search results and European Chemicals Agency, <http://echa.europa.eu/>

Revision Date : 05/09/2026

Items where changes have been made to the previous version are highlighted in the body of this document by two vertical lines.

The information provided in this Safety Data Sheet is correct to the best of our knowledge, information and belief at the date of its publication. The information is designed only as a guidance for safe handling, use, processing, storage, transportation, disposal and release and shall not be considered a warranty or quality specification of any type. The information provided relates only to the specific material identified at the top of this SDS and may not be valid when the SDS material is used in combination with any other materials or in any process, unless specified in the text. Material users should review the information and recommendations in the specific context of their intended manner of handling, use, processing and storage, including an assessment of the appropriateness of the SDS material in the user's end product, if applicable.

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