

Fundamentals of Methylene Chloride Safety

Introduction

You may be asking yourself, why do I need specific training on using methylene chloride in my laboratory? Well, that's a fair question. The answer to that question is that long-term or repeated high exposure levels to methylene chloride can result in significant adverse health effects on the heart, liver, and brain, and may include an increased risk of developing cancer. The nature of the exposure effects prompted OSHA to release the methylene chloride standard. 29 CFR 1910. 1052. OSHA built this standard specifically because methylene chloride hazards, and how it was being used in industry. Laboratory use requires smaller volumes, but the OSHA regulation still applies, and it is prudent to pay attention to the hazards and ensure effective control measures are being used.