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## Chloramines—Friend or Foe?

### *NIOSH concludes a study at a poultry processing facility where workers were exposed to high levels of Chloramines*

Chloramines, a chemical combination of Chlorine and organic mater, are found in various recreational and occupational settings. Super-chlorinated water is used in the meat industry to control the bacterial contamination of food products. When this water is combined with the nitrogenous material from poultry, chloramines are formed.

Industries that use super-chlorinated water:

- ▶ Food Processing—both meat and produce
- ▶ Water treatment facilities

When is super-chlorinated water not used:

- ▶ Kidney dialysis
- ▶ Aquariums

In 2002, The evisceration line workers at a poultry processing plant were presenting with various health complaints including asthma symptoms, wheezing, sore throat, shortness of breath, watery eyes and frequent sneezing. Chloramines were suspected of causing the symptoms so a full exposure evaluation for chloramine compounds was carried out by NIOSH. Investigative findings included

a high level of chloramines in the evisceration area and inadequate ventilation in the workers breathing zones. Recommendations to reduce employee exposure to chloramines included: ensuring the chlorination of water was consistently maintained at the USDA-recommended level, increasing the air exchange rate in the evisceration area, reducing the number of times the birds were washed with super-chlorinated water and changing the pressure washer from a high pressure system to a low pressure system to reduce the amount of aerosolized chloramines. The poultry processing facility requested that NIOSH revisit the site in 2006 to monitor the effects the changes had on the level of chloramines. NIOSH found reduced levels of chloramines along with a reduced level of reported symptoms in line workers.

The full report is available for review at [www.cdc.gov/niosh.hhe](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh.hhe).

DataChem developed the method for Chloramine analysis. This method is currently in draft form, awaiting NIOSH approval and publication.



Chloramines can also be found at many water reclamation plants. Chloramines are commonly added to drinking water as a disinfectant.

## Hexavalent Chromium—Where is it Found?

Chromium is a naturally occurring element. Hexavalent Chromium is man-made and found in the production of:

Stainless steel, textiles, wood (preservation), leather (tanning) and in anti-corrosive coatings.

Stainless steel welding offers the highest exposure to Hexavalent Chromium.

Chromates are also found as pigments in photography, pyrotechnics, dyes, paints, inks and plastics.

OSHA has recently lowered the PEL for all industries to 5µg/m3

DataChem testing services include:

### Chloramines

Method—Internal method, NIOSH draft  
Technique—Ion Chromatography  
Price—\$145

Media available upon request

### Hexavalent Chromium

Method—SW 7196A  
Technique—Colorimetry  
Price—Water \$50 / Solid \$60

## Dietary Supplement and Nonprescription Consumer Protection Act

In the last 2006 congressional session representatives met to vote on the Dietary Supplement and Nonprescription Consumer Protection Act. This Act requires manufacturers of dietary supplements and over the counter medications to report any serious adverse events to the FDA within 15 days of being notified of such an event. Supporters of this initiative are hopeful that this requirement will improve the FDA's ability to remove potentially harmful substances from the marketplace as quickly as possible, thereby protecting many consumers. [Click here for further information on this bill.](#)

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM ALL OF US AT DATACHEM

DataChem staff is committed to meeting all customer needs throughout the year. Holidays are no exception. Our project management team will be available to take phone calls throughout the holiday season. Our Salt Lake corporate office will be open to receive samples Tuesday December 26th from 9:00 am to Noon. We will be closed on Christmas and New Years Day.

## Upcoming Tradeshows and Conferences

- [Enviro2007, March 1-3, 2007, Las Vegas, NV](#)
- [AIHce 2007 Meth Lab Symposium, June 3, 2007, Philadelphia, PA](#)
- [AIHce 2007, June 4-6, 2007 Philadelphia, PA](#)

Do you have a topic you would like to see covered?  
Email me at [bachtell@datachem.com](mailto:bachtell@datachem.com).

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