

MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

Product Name: Genfarm Swipa Slug and Snail Pellets

This revision issued: September, 2010

Page: 1 of 5

Section 1 - Identification of The Material and Supplier

Landmark Operations Limited
Suite 2, Level 3, 64 Talavera Road
Macquarie Park, NSW, 2113

Phone: (02) 9889 5400
Fax: (02) 9889 5411

Chemical nature: Metaldehyde is a polymer of acetaldehyde.
Trade Name: Genfarm Swipa Slug and Snail Pellets
Product Use: Controls slugs and snails in agricultural and horticultural situations.
Creation Date: August, 2005
This version issued: September, 2010 and is valid for 5 years from this date.

Section 2 - Hazards Identification

Statement of Hazardous Nature

This product is classified as: Hazardous according to the criteria of SWA Australia.
Not a Dangerous Good according to the Australian Dangerous Goods (ADG) Code.

Risk Phrases: R22. Harmful if swallowed.

Safety Phrases: S13, S20, S37. Keep away from food, drink and animal feeding stuffs. When using, do not eat or drink. Wear suitable gloves.

SUSMP Classification: S5

ADG Classification: None allocated. Not a Dangerous Good under the ADG Code.

UN Number: None allocated

Emergency Overview

Physical Description & Colour: Green pellets.

Odour: Very faint odour.

Major Health Hazards: Within a few hours of accidental or intentional ingestion of metaldehyde, the following symptoms appeared in humans: severe abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, fever, convulsions, coma, and persistent memory loss. Other symptoms of high acute exposure include increased heart rate, panting, asthma attack, depression, drowsiness, high blood pressure, inability to control the release of urine and faeces, incoordination, muscle tremors, sweating, excessive salivation, tearing, cyanosis, acidosis, stupor, and unconsciousness and eventual death in extreme cases. Product is harmful if swallowed.

Potential Health Effects

Inhalation

Short Term Exposure: Significant inhalation exposure is considered to be unlikely. Available data indicates that this product is not harmful. In addition product is unlikely to cause any discomfort or irritation.

Long Term Exposure: No data for health effects associated with long term inhalation.

Skin Contact:

Short Term Exposure: Available data indicates that this product is not harmful. It should present no hazards in normal use. In addition product is unlikely to cause any discomfort in normal use.

Long Term Exposure: No data for health effects associated with long term skin exposure.

Eye Contact:

Short Term Exposure: Exposure via eyes is considered to be unlikely. This product is believed to be not irritating to eyes.

Long Term Exposure: No data for health effects associated with long term eye exposure.

Ingestion:

Short Term Exposure: Significant oral exposure is considered to be unlikely. Available data shows that this product is harmful, but symptoms are not available. This product is unlikely to cause any irritation problems in the short or long term.

Long Term Exposure: No data for health effects associated with long term ingestion.

Carcinogen Status:

SWA: No significant ingredient is classified as carcinogenic by SWA.

MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

Product Name: Genfarm Swipa Slug and Snail Pellets

This revision issued: September, 2010

Page: 2 of 5

NTP: No significant ingredient is classified as carcinogenic by NTP.

IARC: No significant ingredient is classified as carcinogenic by IARC.

Section 3 - Composition/Information on Ingredients

Ingredients	CAS No	Conc, %	TWA (mg/m ³)	STEL (mg/m ³)
Metaldehyde	108-62-3	1.5	not set	not set
Other non hazardous ingredients	secret	to 100	not set	not set

This is a commercial product whose exact ratio of components may vary slightly. Minor quantities of other non hazardous ingredients are also possible.

The TWA exposure value is the average airborne concentration of a particular substance when calculated over a normal 8 hour working day for a 5 day working week. The STEL (Short Term Exposure Limit) is an exposure value that should not be exceeded for more than 15 minutes and should not be repeated for more than 4 times per day. There should be at least 60 minutes between successive exposures at the STEL. The term "peak" is used when the TWA limit, because of the rapid action of the substance, should never be exceeded, even briefly.

Section 4 - First Aid Measures

General Information:

You should call The Poisons Information Centre if you feel that you may have been poisoned, burned or irritated by this product. The number is 13 1126 from anywhere in Australia (0800 764 766 in New Zealand) and is available at all times. Have this MSDS with you when you call.

Inhalation: First aid is not generally required. If in doubt, contact a Poisons Information Centre or a doctor.

Skin Contact: Gently brush away excess solids. Irritation is unlikely. However, if irritation does occur, flush with lukewarm, gently flowing water for 5 minutes or until chemical is removed.

Eye Contact: Quickly and gently brush particles from eyes. First aid is not generally required. If in doubt, contact a Poisons Information Centre or a doctor.

Ingestion: If swallowed, do NOT induce vomiting. Wash mouth with water and contact a Poisons Information Centre, or call a doctor.

Section 5 - Fire Fighting Measures

Fire and Explosion Hazards: There is no risk of an explosion from this product under normal circumstances if it is involved in a fire.

Fire decomposition products from this product are likely to be harmful if inhaled. Take suitable protective measures.

Extinguishing Media: Preferred extinguishing media are carbon dioxide, dry chemical, foam, water fog.

Fire Fighting: If a significant quantity of this product is involved in a fire, call the fire brigade.

Flash point: Not flammable.

Upper Flammability Limit: No data.

Lower Flammability Limit: No data.

Autoignition temperature: No data.

Flammability Class: No data.

Section 6 - Accidental Release Measures

Accidental release: In the event of a major spill, prevent spillage from entering drains or water courses. As a minimum, wear overalls, goggles and gloves. Suitable materials for protective clothing include cotton, PVC, butyl rubber. If there is a significant chance that dusts are likely to build up in cleanup area, we recommend that you use a suitable Dust Mask. Use a P1 mask, designed for use against mechanically generated particles eg silica & asbestos. Stop leak if safe to do so, and contain spill. Sweep up and shovel or collect recoverable product into labelled containers for recycling or salvage, and dispose of promptly. Consider vacuuming if appropriate. Recycle containers wherever possible after careful cleaning. Refer to product label for specific instructions. After spills, wash area preventing runoff from entering drains. If a significant quantity of material enters drains, advise emergency services. Full details regarding disposal of used containers, spillage and unused material may be found on the label. If there is any conflict between this MSDS and the label, instructions on the label prevail. Ensure legality of disposal by consulting regulations prior to disposal. Thoroughly launder protective clothing before storage or re-use. Advise laundry of nature of contamination when sending contaminated clothing to laundry.

Section 7 - Handling and Storage

Handling: Keep exposure to this product to a minimum, and minimise the quantities kept in work areas. Check Section 8 of this MSDS for details of personal protective measures, and make sure that those measures are followed.

MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

Product Name: Genfarm Swipa Slug and Snail Pellets

This revision issued: September, 2010

Page: 3 of 5

The measures detailed below under "Storage" should be followed during handling in order to minimise risks to persons using the product in the workplace. Also, avoid contact or contamination of product with incompatible materials listed in Section 10.

Storage: This product is a Scheduled Poison. Observe all relevant regulations regarding sale, transport and storage of this schedule of poison. Keep containers dry and away from water. Store in the closed original container in a dry, cool, well-ventilated area out of direct sunlight. Make sure that the product does not come into contact with substances listed under "Incompatibilities" in Section 10. Check packaging - there may be further storage instructions on the label.

Section 8 - Exposure Controls and Personal Protection

The following Australian Standards will provide general advice regarding safety clothing and equipment:

Respiratory equipment: **AS/NZS 1715**, Protective Gloves: **AS 2161**, Occupational Protective Clothing: AS/NZS 4501 set 2008, Industrial Eye Protection: **AS1336** and **AS/NZS 1337**, Occupational Protective Footwear: **AS/NZS2210**.

SWA Exposure Limits **TWA (mg/m³)** **STEL (mg/m³)**

Exposure limits have not been established by SWA for any of the significant ingredients in this product.

The ADI for Metaldehyde is set at 0.005mg/kg/day. The corresponding NOEL is set at 5mg/kg/day. ADI means Acceptable Daily Intake and NOEL means No-observable-effect-level. Values taken from Australian ADI List, Dec 2004.

No special equipment is usually needed when occasionally handling small quantities. The following instructions are for bulk handling or where regular exposure in an occupational setting occurs without proper containment systems.

Ventilation: No special ventilation requirements are normally necessary for this product. However make sure that the work environment remains clean and that dusts are minimised.

Eye Protection: Eye protection is not normally necessary when this product is being used. However, if in doubt, wear suitable protective glasses or goggles.

Skin Protection: The information at hand indicates that this product is not harmful and that normally no special skin protection is necessary. However, we suggest that you routinely avoid contact with all chemical products and that you wear suitable gloves (preferably elbow-length) when skin contact is likely.

Protective Material Types: We suggest that protective clothing be made from the following materials: cotton, PVC, butyl rubber.

Respirator: If there is a significant chance that dusts are likely to build up in the area where this product is being used, we recommend that you use a suitable Dust Mask.

Section 9 - Physical and Chemical Properties:

Physical Description & colour:	Green pellets.
Odour:	Very faint odour.
Boiling Point:	Not available.
Freezing/Melting Point:	No specific data. Solid at normal temperatures.
Volatiles:	No specific data. Expected to be low at 100°C.
Vapour Pressure:	No data.
Vapour Density:	No data.
Specific Gravity:	No data.
Water Solubility:	Slowly dissolves - pellets disintegrate.
pH:	No data.
Volatility:	No data.
Odour Threshold:	No data.
Evaporation Rate:	No data.
Coeff Oil/water Distribution:	No data
Autoignition temp:	No data.

Section 10 - Stability and Reactivity

Reactivity: This product is unlikely to react or decompose under normal storage conditions. However, if you have any doubts, contact the supplier for advice on shelf life properties.

Conditions to Avoid: Containers should be kept dry. Store in the closed original container in a dry, cool, well-ventilated area out of direct sunlight.

Incompatibilities: strong acids, strong bases, strong oxidising agents.

MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

Product Name: Genfarm Swipa Slug and Snail Pellets

This revision issued: September, 2010

Page: 4 of 5

Fire Decomposition: Carbon dioxide, and if combustion is incomplete, carbon monoxide and smoke. Water. Carbon monoxide poisoning produces headache, weakness, nausea, dizziness, confusion, dimness of vision, disturbance of judgment, and unconsciousness followed by coma and death.

Polymerisation: This product will not undergo polymerisation reactions.

Section 11 - Toxicological Information

Toxicity: Acute toxicity: Metaldehyde is slightly to harmful to toxic by ingestion, with reported oral LD₅₀ values of 227 to 690 mg/kg in rats, 207 mg/kg in cats, 100 to 1000 mg/kg in dogs, 200 mg/kg in mice, 175 to 700 mg/kg in guinea pigs, and 290 to 1250 mg/kg in rabbits. Via the dermal route, it is also moderately toxic. The dermal LD₅₀ for this molluscicide in rats is from 2275 mg/kg to greater than 5000 mg/kg. Metaldehyde is harmful by inhalation; the 4-hour inhalation LC₅₀ in rats is 0.2 mg/L, and the 2-hour inhalation LC₅₀ in mice is 0.35 mg/L. Irritation of the skin, eye, and mucous membranes of the upper airways and gastrointestinal tract may result from contact with metaldehyde.

Chronic toxicity: Dosages which are not toxic when given singly do not cause illness when repeated. Long-term, repeated skin exposure to metaldehyde may result in dermatitis (skin inflammation) in humans. Prolonged eye exposure can cause conjunctivitis. In 2-year toxicity studies and three-generation reproductive studies in rats, changes in liver enzyme activity and increased liver and ovary weight at dietary doses of about 12.5 mg/kg/day were found; 50% of female rats given this dose showed paralysis. Effects on the brain (e.g., impairment of memory) may also be possible with chronic exposure at very high levels.

Reproductive effects: During a three-generation study of rats exposed to chronic ingestion of metaldehyde, adverse effects were seen on reproduction and on the survival rate of offspring. Doses of 50 and 250 mg/kg/day interfered with the reproduction of female rats in another three-generation test. These data suggest that metaldehyde is likely to cause reproductive effects only at high levels.

Teratogenic effects: The evidence suggests that metaldehyde is unlikely to cause teratogenic effects.

Mutagenic effects: Metaldehyde has been reported to be a suspected mutagen. However, there was no evidence of mutagenicity when metaldehyde was tested on five strains of bacteria. The evidence regarding mutagenicity of metaldehyde is inconclusive.

Carcinogenic effects: studies suggests that metaldehyde is not carcinogenic.

Organ toxicity: Metaldehyde or its breakdown by-products, 'metabolites,' may cause problems in the central nervous system by an unknown mechanism. It may also cause lesions in kidneys and the liver following systemic distribution, as well as inflammation of the skin, eye, and mucous membranes of the airways and gastrointestinal tract with direct contact.

Fate in humans and animals: Metaldehyde is readily absorbed into the bloodstream from the gastrointestinal tract. Metaldehyde's primary decomposition product in the body is acetaldehyde. Its metabolites can cross the blood-brain barrier, as evidenced by their effect on the level of consciousness of animals.

Section 12 - Ecological Information

Effects on birds: Death of birds feeding in metaldehyde-treated areas has been reported, although the precise acute oral LD₅₀ values or subchronic dietary LC₅₀ values were unavailable. Excitability, tremors, muscle spasms, diarrhoea, and difficult or rapid breathing was observed in poultry that were exposed to metaldehyde.

Effects on aquatic organisms: Metaldehyde is reported to be practically nontoxic to aquatic organisms.

Effects on other organisms: The 4% pelleted bait is reported to be toxic to wildlife. When used as directed, bait agents with 6% active ingredient are not toxic to bees (30). Bait pellets containing metaldehyde are attractive to dogs. Pets should be confined during application, and kept away from application and storage sites.

Environmental Fate:

Breakdown in soil and groundwater: Metaldehyde is of low persistence in the soil environment, with a half-life on the order of several days. It is weakly sorbed by soil organic matter and clay particles, and is soluble in water. Due to its low persistence, it is not a significant risk to groundwater.

Breakdown in water: Metaldehyde undergoes rapid hydrolysis to acetaldehyde, and should be of low persistence in the aquatic environment.

Breakdown in vegetation: Many types of flowers lose their colour when they come in contact with metaldehyde dust or spray.

Section 13 - Disposal Considerations

Disposal: Instructions concerning the disposal of this product and its containers are given on the product label. These should be carefully followed.

Section 14 - Transport Information

ADG Code: This product is not classified as a Dangerous Good. No special transport conditions are necessary unless required by other regulations.

MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

Product Name: Genfarm Swipa Slug and Snail Pellets

This revision issued: September, 2010

Page: 5 of 5

Section 15 - Regulatory Information

AICS: All of the significant ingredients in this formulation are compliant with NICNAS regulations.
The following ingredients: Metaldehyde, are mentioned in the SUSMP.

Section 16 - Other Information

This MSDS contains only safety-related information. For other data see product literature.

Acronyms:

ADG Code	Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail, 7th Edition
AICS	Australian Inventory of Chemical Substances
CAS Number	Chemical Abstracts Service Registry Number
Hazchem Code	Emergency action code of numbers and letters that provide information to emergency services especially firefighters
IARC	International Agency for Research on Cancer
SWA	Safe Work Australia, formerly ASCC and NOHSC
NOS	Not otherwise specified
NTP	National Toxicology Program (USA)
R-Phrase	Risk Phrase
SUSMP	Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines & Poisons
UN Number	United Nations Number

THIS MSDS SUMMARISES OUR BEST KNOWLEDGE OF THE HEALTH AND SAFETY HAZARD INFORMATION OF THE PRODUCT AND HOW TO SAFELY HANDLE AND USE THE PRODUCT IN THE WORKPLACE. EACH USER MUST REVIEW THIS MSDS IN THE CONTEXT OF HOW THE PRODUCT WILL BE HANDLED AND USED IN THE WORKPLACE.

IF CLARIFICATION OR FURTHER INFORMATION IS NEEDED TO ENSURE THAT AN APPROPRIATE RISK ASSESSMENT CAN BE MADE, THE USER SHOULD CONTACT THIS COMPANY SO WE CAN ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM OUR SUPPLIERS. OUR RESPONSIBILITY FOR PRODUCTS SOLD IS SUBJECT TO OUR STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS, A COPY OF WHICH IS SENT TO OUR CUSTOMERS AND IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.

Please read all labels carefully before using product.

This MSDS is prepared in accord with the SWA document "National Code of Practice for the Preparation of Material Safety Data Sheets" 2nd Edition [NOHSC:2011(2003)]

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<http://www.kilford.com.au> Phone (02)9251 4532