Dispersed Copper (µCu)

Product Stewardship Summary December 2009

Product Name:	(µCu)
Synonyms:	None
CAS Name & Number	Not Applicable – this is a mixture
EINECS Number	Not Applicable – this is a mixture

- *General Description.* This form of copper is combined with a co-biocide, typically a combination of azoles, to formulate an effective wood preservative.

- *Manufacture.* µCuis manufactured at the Conley, GA facility by finely grinding solid copper to approximately micron sized particles.

- *Applications.* Wood preservatives made with dispersed copper are applied to lumber, plywood, poles, posts, piles, and timbers to protect the wood against termite damage and fungal decay. The treated wood is then used for decks, other backyard projects, walkways, utility poles, fence posts, land and marine piling, and a wide range of products that are otherwise susceptible to biodegradation.

- *Benefits.* This wood preservative adds decades of service life to wood products used outdoors, and it does so while being less corrosive and has the potential for less copper leaching than other preservative formulations.

- *General Precautions.* Dispersed copper may cause moderate to severe irritation to the eye. Inhalation and skin exposure to µCu produces mild irritation; however these effects are reversible and are

not expected to result in permanent damage. Ingestion of this material is mildly harmful; however ingestion and inhalation of high levels of the sodium nitrite component of the µCu formulation may cause methemoglobinemia. This condition is characterized by the reduced ability of blood to carry oxygen to tissues. This chemical has the potential to cause liver damage.

Based on an evaluation of the individual components, µCu is not reported to damage genetic material and is not expected to be a mutagen. It is not a cancer-causing agent.

µCu is not expected to impair reproductive performance, fertility, or fetal development.

Repeated exposure to µCu can potentially cause liver damage.

µCu is toxic to fish and other aquatic organisms based on testing of the active components of the product. However, the concentrate is diluted 20 to 1000-fold and only this diluted form is applied to wood in a closed system, therefore greatly reducing the chance for significant discharge in to waterways. Once impregnated into wood products, the potential for significant aquatic effects is not considered likely due to the implementation of best management practices used by wood treaters.

- *Likelihood of exposure.* Although transfers of the concentrated chemical are contained in closed systems, exposure to the chemical could occur at a manufacturing facility, treating plant, and site of an accidental release during shipment. After treatment, a large percentage of the chemical becomes part of the wood, though small amounts may leach from wood. For exposures to treated wood, see Material Data Safety Sheets on the finished products.

- *Risk management.* This product is not for sale to the consumer. It is for industrial use and application only. The population that is exposed to the concentrate is highly trained and wears the proper personal protective equipment to control the hazards. Applicators should carefully read and follow all label directions. The amount contained in wood products does not pose a significant health or environmental hazard.

For additional information, please visit our web site at www.archchemicals.com and click on “Contact Us”.

This summary is intended to give general information about the chemical or categories of chemicals addressed. It is not intended to be, and should not be relied upon as, a substitute for the detailed health and safety information contained in the Material Safety Data Sheet (or any other required hazard communication material) for this product, which should be consulted before use of the chemical or treatment for exposure. As with any product, it is very important to read and carefully follow all label directions and warnings. This summary does not amend, modify, or replace required regulatory and/or legal communication documents.