

## SAFETY DATA SHEET

### 1. SUBSTANCE AND SOURCE IDENTIFICATION

**Product Identifier****SRM Number:** 2881**SRM Name:** Polystyrene Absolute Molecular Mass Distribution Standard**Other Means of Identification:** Not applicable.**Recommended Use of This Material and Restrictions of Use**

This Standard Reference Material (SRM) is intended for the calibration and the performance evaluation of instruments used to determine the average molecular mass and molecular mass distribution of synthetic polymers (where mass is taken to be relative to the mass of  $^{12}\text{C}$ ). A unit of SRM 2881 consists of approximately 0.3 g of polystyrene powder.

**Company Information**

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Standard Reference Materials Program  
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Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899-2300

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+1-703-527-3887 (International)

### 2. HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION

**Note:** SRM 2881 is supplied in a small quantity and under normal laboratory conditions it does not constitute a combustible dust hazard. The physical properties of this material indicate that accumulated dust on surfaces generated where operations produce fine particulates, may lead to combustible dust concentrations in air.

**Classification****Physical Hazard:** Not classified.**Health Hazard:** Not classified.**Label Elements****Symbol:** No Symbol/No Pictogram.**Signal Word:** No Signal Word**Hazard Statement(s):** Not applicable.**Precautionary Statement(s):** Not applicable.**Hazards Not Otherwise Classified:** Not applicable.**Ingredients(s) with Unknown Acute Toxicity:** Not applicable.

### 3. COMPOSITION AND INFORMATION ON HAZARDOUS INGREDIENTS

**Substance:** Polystyrene**Other Designations:** Styrene polymer; ethenylbenzene homopolymer; ethenylene; oligostyrene; poly(vinylbenzene).

Components are listed in compliance with OSHA's 29 CFR 1910.1200; for the actual values see the NIST Certificate of Analysis.

Hazardous Component(s)	CAS Number	EC Number (EINECS)	Nominal Mass Concentration (%)
Polystyrene powder	9003-53-6	500-008-9	100

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## 4. FIRST AID MEASURES

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### Description of First Aid Measures:

**Inhalation:** If adverse effects occur, remove to uncontaminated area. If not breathing, give artificial respiration or oxygen by qualified personnel. Seek immediate medical attention.

**Skin Contact:** Wash skin with soap and water for at least 15 minutes. Thoroughly clean and dry contaminated clothing before reuse.

**Eye Contact:** Flush eyes with water for at least 15 minutes. If necessary, seek medical attention.

**Ingestion:** If adverse effects occur after ingestion, seek medical treatment.

**Most Important Symptoms/Effects, Acute and Delayed:** Skin or eye mechanical irritation.

**Indication of any immediate medical attention and special treatment needed, if necessary:** If any of the above symptoms are present, seek medical attention if needed.

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## 5. FIRE FIGHTING MEASURES

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**Fire and Explosion Hazards:** Avoid generating dust; sufficient concentrations of fine dust dispersed in air, and in the presence of an ignition source is a potential hazard. See Section 9, "Physical and Chemical Properties" for flammability properties.

### Extinguishing Media:

Suitable: Regular dry chemical, carbon dioxide, water, and regular foam.

Unsuitable: None listed.

**Specific Hazards Arising from the Chemical:** None listed.

**Special Protective Equipment and Precautions for Fire-Fighters:** Avoid inhalation of material or combustion byproducts. Wear full protective clothing and NIOSH approved self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).

**NFPA Ratings** (0 = Minimal; 1 = Slight; 2 = Moderate; 3 = Serious; 4 = Severe)

Health = 1

Fire = 1

Reactivity = 0

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## 6. ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES

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**Personal Precautions, Protective Equipment and Emergency Procedures:** Any accumulated material on surfaces should be removed and properly disposed of. Use suitable protective equipment; see Section 8, "Exposure Controls and Personal Protection".

**Methods and Materials for Containment and Clean up:** Do not touch spilled material. Notify safety personnel of spills. Collect spilled material in appropriate container for disposal. Isolate hazard area and deny entry.

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## 7. HANDLING AND STORAGE

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**Safe Handling Precautions:** Minimize dust generation and accumulation on surfaces. See Section 8, "Exposure Controls and Personal Protection".

**Storage:** Store and handle in accordance with all current regulations and standards. Keep separated from incompatible substances; see Section 10, "Stability and Reactivity".

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## 8. EXPOSURE CONTROLS AND PERSONAL PROTECTION

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**Exposure Limits:** This material is a particulate matter and adequate inhalation/respiratory protection should be used to minimize exposure. No occupational exposure limits have been established for polystyrene. The exposure limits for Particulates Not Otherwise Regulated are applicable.

OSHA (PEL): 15 mg/m<sup>3</sup> (TWA, total particulates)

5 mg/m<sup>3</sup> (TWA, respirable particulates)

**Engineering Controls:** Provide local exhaust or process enclosure ventilation system. Ensure compliance with applicable exposure limits.

**Personal Protection:** In accordance with OSHA 29 CFR 1910.132, subpart I, wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to minimize exposure to this material.

**Respiratory Protection:** If workplace conditions warrant a respirator, a respiratory protection program that meets OSHA 29CFR 1910.134 must be followed. Refer to NIOSH 42 CFR 84 for applicable certified respirators.

**Eye/Face Protection:** Wear splash resistant safety goggles with a face shield. An eye wash station should be readily available near areas of use.

**Skin and Body Protection:** Personal protective equipment for the body should be selected based on the task being performed and the risks involved and should be approved by a specialist before handling this product. Chemical-resistant gloves should be worn at all times when handling chemicals.

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## 9. PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

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### Descriptive Properties:

**Appearance**  
(physical state, color, etc.):

**Molecular Formula:**

**Molar Mass (g/mol):**

**Odor:**

**Odor threshold:**

**pH:**

**Evaporation rate:**

**Melting point/freezing point (°C):**

**Relative Density (water = 1):**

**Vapor Pressure (mmHg):**

**Vapor Density (air = 1):**

**Viscosity (cP):**

**Solubility(ies):**

### Polystyrene

Colorless to white powder

$(\text{CH}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)\text{-CH}_2)_x$

not applicable

not available

not available

not available

not applicable

240 (464 °F)

1.04 to 1.13

not applicable

not applicable

not applicable

insoluble in water; insoluble in alcohols, alkali, nonoxidizing acids, phenol, and acetone; soluble in ethyl benzene, methyl isobutyl ketone, tetrahydrofuran, benzene, toluene, dichloromethane, pyridines

**Partition coefficient (n-octanol/water):**

not available

**Particle Size (if relevant)**

not available

### Thermal Stability Properties:

**Autoignition Temperature (°C):**

488 to 496 (910 to 925 °F)

**Thermal Decomposition (°C):**

not available

**Initial boiling point and boiling range (°C):**

not available

**Explosive Limits, LEL (Volume %):**

not available

**Explosive Limits, UEL (Volume %):**

not available

**Flash Point (°C)**

345 to 360 (653 to 680 °F)

**Flammability (solid, gas):**

not available

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## 10. STABILITY AND REACTIVITY

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**Reactivity:** Stable at normal temperatures and pressure.

**Stability:**     X      Stable     \_\_\_\_\_  Unstable

**Possible Hazardous Reactions:** None listed.

**Conditions to Avoid:** Avoid generating dust. Avoid heat, flames, sparks and other sources of ignition. Avoid contact with incompatible materials.

**Incompatible Materials:** Oxidizing materials, combustible materials.

**Fire/Explosion Information:** See Section 5, "Fire Fighting Measures".

**Hazardous Decomposition:** Oxides of carbon and styrene.

Hazardous Polymerization: \_\_\_\_\_ Will Occur      X   Will Not Occur

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## 11. TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION

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Route of Exposure:      X   Inhalation      X   Skin      X   Ingestion

Symptoms Related to the Physical, Chemical and Toxicological Characteristics: No data available.

**Potential Health Effects (Acute, Chronic and Delayed):**

**Inhalation:** High concentrations of dust may cause irritation. Fumes from heated of burning polystyrene may cause irritation of the nose, throat and lungs.

**Skin Contact:** Skin exposure may result in mechanical irritation.

**Eye Contact:** Dust may cause mechanical irritation. Fumes from heated of burning polystyrene may cause irritation and tearing.

**Ingestion:** No data available.

**Numerical Measures of Toxicity:**

**Acute Toxicity:** Not classified.

Rat, Inhalation LC50: 56.6 g/m<sup>3</sup> 30 minutes

**Skin Corrosion/Irritation:** Not classified; no data available.

**Serious Eye damage/ Eye irritation:** Not classified; no data available.

**Respiratory Sensitization:** Not classified; no data available.

**Skin Sensitization:** Not classified; no data available.

**Germ Cell Mutagenicity:** Not classified.

**Carcinogenicity:** Not classified.

**Listed as a Carcinogen/Potential Carcinogen**    \_\_\_\_\_ Yes      X   No  
Polystyrene is not listed by NTP, IARC or OSHA as a carcinogen.

**Reproductive Toxicity:** Not classified; no data available.

**Specific Target Organ Toxicity, Single Exposure:** Not classified; no data available.

**Specific Target Organ Toxicity, Repeated Exposure:** Not classified; no data available.

**Aspiration Hazard:** Not classified; no data available.

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## 12. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

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**Ecotoxicity Data:** No data available

**Persistence and Degradability:** No data available.

**Bioaccumulative Potential:** No data available.

**Mobility in Soil:** No data available.

**Other Adverse effects:** No data available.

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## 13. DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS

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**Waste Disposal:** Dispose of waste in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations.

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## 14. TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

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**U.S. DOT and IATA:** Not regulated by DOT or IATA.

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## 15. REGULATORY INFORMATION

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**U.S. Regulations:**

CERCLA Sections 102a/103 (40 CFR 302.4): Not regulated.

SARA Title III Section 302 (40 CFR 355.30): Not regulated.

SARA Title III Section 304 (40 CFR 355.40): Not regulated.

SARA Title III Section 313 (40 CFR 372.65): Not regulated.

OSHA Process Safety (29 CFR 1910.119): Not regulated.

SARA Title III Sections 311/312 Hazardous Categories (40 CFR 370.21):

ACUTE HEALTH:	No.
CHRONIC HEALTH:	No.
FIRE:	No.
REACTIVE:	No.
PRESSURE:	No.

**State Regulations:**

California Proposition 65: Not listed.

**U.S. TSCA Inventory:** Polystyrene is listed.

**TSCA 12(b), Export Notification:** Not listed.

**Canadian Regulations:**

WHMIS Information: Not provided for this material.

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## 16. OTHER INFORMATION

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**Issue Date:** 18 May 2015

**Sources:** ChemADVISOR, Inc., SDS *Polystyrene*, 20 March 2015

CDC; NIOSH; *NIOSH Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards*; Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Institute for Safety and Health; *Particulates not otherwise regulated*, 4 April 2011; available at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npg/npgd0480.html> (accessed May 2015).

**Key of Acronyms:**

ACGIH	American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists	NRC	Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ALI	Annual Limit on Intake	NTP	National Toxicology Program
CAS	Chemical Abstracts Service	OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act	PEL	Permissible Exposure Limit
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations	RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
DOT	Department of Transportation	REL	Recommended Exposure Limit
EC50	Effective Concentration, 50 %	RM	Reference Material
EINECS	European Inventory of Existing Commercial Chemical Substances	RQ	Reportable Quantity
EPCRA	Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act	RTECS	Registry of Toxic Effects of Chemical Substances
IARC	International Agency for Research on Cancer	SARA	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act
IATA	International Air Transportation Agency	SCBA	Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus
IDLH	Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health	SRM	Standard Reference Material
LC50	Lethal Concentration, 50 %	STEL	Short Term Exposure Limit
LD50	Lethal Dose, 50 %	TLV	Threshold Limit Value
LEL	Lower Explosive Limit	TPQ	Threshold Planning Quantity
MSDS	Material Safety Data Sheet	TSCA	Toxic Substances Control Act
NFPA	National Fire Protection Association	TWA	Time Weighted Average
NIOSH	National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health	UEL	Upper Explosive Limit
NIST	National Institute of Standards and Technology	WHMIS	Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System

**Disclaimer:** Physical and chemical data contained in this SDS are provided only for use in assessing the hazardous nature of the material. The SDS was prepared carefully, using current references; however, NIST does not certify the data in the SDS. The certified values for this material are given in the NIST Certificate of Analysis.

Users of this SRM should ensure that the SDS in their possession is current. This can be accomplished by contacting the SRM Program: telephone (301) 975-2200; fax (301) 948-3730; e-mail [srmmsds@nist.gov](mailto:srmmsds@nist.gov); or via the Internet at <http://www.nist.gov/srm>.