

# Product Information



## ETHYL MERCAPTAN ODORANT FOR PROPANE

ATOFINA Chemicals is a world leader in producing various sulfur bearing compounds including mercaptans and sulfides. These thiochemicals have important applications in pharmaceuticals, agrichemicals, polymers, petroleum refining and gas odorization.

Mercaptans and sulfides, with their distinctively pungent odor have been used for decades as warning agents for leaking natural gas and LPG. Ethyl mercaptan is so effective as an odorant that nearly all of the odorized propane in the United States is generally odorized with it; please see the safety information below.

### Propane and Ethyl Mercaptan

The National Propane Gas Association, the Bureau of Mines and others have recognized ethyl mercaptan as an effective propane gas odorant. The NPGA "considers the standards of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) as the master authority for guidance from a fire protection and safety standpoint." The selection of ethyl mercaptan and the NFPA recommended dosage of 1 lb./10,000 gallons of propane was based upon work by the U.S. Bureau of Mines in 1930.

### A dependable ethyl mercaptan supplier.

ATOFINA Chemicals has decades of experience supplying mercaptans and sulfides as gas odorants. With a large fleet of specially equipped trucks and highly trained delivery experts, ATOFINA Chemicals is a dependable, responsible supplier. Also supporting this service are skilled technical professionals available for consultation and assistance.

### Important Safety Information

**WARNING: the absence of an ethyl mercaptan odor should not be taken as a guarantee that propane gas is not present.**

There are several conditions which may compromise or reduce the effectiveness of ethyl mercaptan as a warning agent for the presence of propane gas. These include, but may not be limited to:

- people with anosmia or a limited sense of smell may fail to

detect the odor of a propane leak and not realize that a hazardous condition exists

- people with nasal complications such as allergies, colds, sinus infections and injuries may have their sense of smell temporarily impaired
- olfactory fatigue, which is a temporary desensitization in the ability to smell, may exist in individuals who were exposed to ethyl mercaptan or other substances and such people may fail to recognize a propane leak continues to exist
- leaking propane which has migrated through soil may have the ethyl mercaptan "stripped" out and fail to have the distinctive odor if it settles in a basement or other low lying area
- people who are sleeping may fail to detect the odor of the propane, especially if they are not near the area of the leak
- ethyl mercaptan decomposes into less odorous sulfides in the presence of rust, moisture and air, therefore, propane may experience "odor fade" if clean, properly cared for cylinders and equipment are not used
- new steel cylinders, piping and equipment which have not been "passivated" by an extra amount of ethyl mercaptan may also create "odor fade" as the ethyl mercaptan in the propane is absorbed by the new steel surfaces.

For additional warning and detection systems to identify propane gas leaks, please consult with your propane gas retailer for recommendations.

NOTE: ATOFINA Chemicals produces ethyl mercaptan for various end use applications. ATOFINA Chemicals does not produce, market, odorize or distribute propane. ATOFINA Chemicals makes no representation or warranty regarding the reliability or continued reliability of ethyl mercaptan as a propane gas odorant.

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