



**MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET  
ZIRCON/RUTILE CONCENTRATE**

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**1. CHEMICAL PRODUCT AND COMPANY IDENTIFICATION**

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**Product Identification**

Product Names: Zircon/Rutile Concentrate  
Other Names: Zircon Sand, Zircon Silicate, Zircon Flour  
Chemical Formula:  $ZrSiO_4$

**Company Identification**

Company: Mineral Sand Resources (Pty) Ltd  
Address: Farm Geelwal Karoo  
Koekenaap, Western Cape  
South Africa  
Telephone Number: (+27)87 150 4010  
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**2. COMPOSITION/INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS**

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**Ingredients (typical) CAS Number Weight %**

Zircon 14940-68-2	≥ 67%
Monazite Approx	≤ 0.02%
Kyanite 1302-76-7	0.1 - 1.5%
Quartz 14808-60-7	6 - 15%
Titanium Minerals	–16 - 20%

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**3. HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION**

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Not classified as hazardous according to US Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists.

**Potential Health Effects**

*Acute*

Swallowed. Non-toxic. There are no known hazards resulting from accidental ingestion of Zircon Sand as may occur during normal handling. Swallowing a large amount may result in irritation to the digestive system due to abrasiveness

Eye. The zircon grains and dust can be moderately irritating due to abrasiveness Skin.  
Low hazard.

Inhaled. The normal grain size of the product precludes it from being an inhalation hazard, however handling can cause grains to fracture so producing dust. This is normally regarded as general nuisance dust, but can be irritating if inhaled at high concentration. May cause symptoms such as coughing or sneezing.

*Chronic*

Silica. Crystalline silica is a known cause of lung fibrosis (silicosis). It has also has been classified as a human carcinogen. (International Agency for Research on Cancer). Zircon Sand contains a small amount of free quartz, (up to 0.5 %) and precautions should be taken to avoid inhaling the dust.

Radiation. In common with many minerals, Zircon Sand contains very low levels of naturally occurring radioactive elements of the uranium and thorium series. The main radiological hazard from the product is internal exposure from small amounts of alpha particles given off by inhaled dust. Low level gamma radiation from bulk or bagged stockpiles of Zircon Sand may present a lesser, external hazard. MSR Zircon



## MINERAL SANDS RESOURCES (PTY) LTD

Material Safety Data Sheet  
Zircon/Rutile Concentrate

Sand is exempt from NRC regulations for source material per 10 CFR 40, since it falls under the definition of unprocessed material containing less than 0.05 % uranium and thorium.

### *Carcinogenic Information*

The following components are listed by the IARC, NTP, OSHA and ACGIH as carcinogens. A "P" indicates a proposed carcinogen.

Material:	IARC	NTP	OSHA	ACGIH
Quartz	x	x	-	-

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#### 4. FIRST AID MEASURES

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<b>Swallowed</b>	First aid is unlikely to be required, but if necessary wash mouth out with water ensuring the mouthwash is not swallowed. Seek medical attention as a precaution if discomfort occurs.
<b>Eye</b>	Hold eyelid open and flush with plenty of clean water. Continue for at least 15 minutes or until grit is removed. Seek medical attention if soreness or irritation persists.
<b>Skin</b>	Gently remove contaminated clothing to avoid generating dust. Wash material from the skin. If repeated contact results in skin irritation, seek medical advice. Launder clothing before re-use.
<b>Inhaled</b>	Move to fresh air. Blow nose to remove particulates from nasal passages. If any adverse reaction develops, seek medical attention.

#### **First Aid**

Facilities.	Eye wash facilities.
Advice to Physician.	Treat symptomatically.

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#### 5. FIRE FIGHTING MEASURES

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<b>Flashpoint:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Flammability Limits:</b>	Not applicable
<b>General Hazard:</b>	This product is not flammable and does not support combustion.
<b>Extinguishing Media:</b>	Use media suitable for the material that is burning.



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**6. ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES**

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**Spills and Disposal**    Wear safety equipment as for normal handling. Avoid generating dust. Vacuum up if possible, otherwise sweep up and recycle. If the spilled product is not suitable for reuse, damp down, collect and where possible return to manufacturer for reprocessing. Otherwise dispose of to an approved landfill site and cover with clean fill in accordance with State/Local Council regulations.

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**7. STORAGE AND HANDLING**

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**Handling (Personnel)**

Avoid breathing dust. Wash thoroughly after handling.

If handling respirable flour it is advisable to use gloves and wash hands before eating, drinking or smoking to minimise inhalation or ingestion from hands.

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**8. EXPOSURE CONTROLS/PERSONAL PROTECTION**

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**Engineering**

**Controls.**            Ventilation requirements will depend on handling methods and the amount in use, but should be sufficient to maintain dust levels below exposure limits. Indoor points of dust generation such as conveyor and hopper discharges should be equipped with an effective extraction system.

If using MSR Zircon Sand as an abrasive blast agent in confined areas, airborne dust should be controlled by a physical enclosure in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.94 Ventilation (a) Abrasive Blasting.

**Personal.**            Protection Safety glasses with side shields or goggles. If risk of inhaling dust is present, wear, at minimum, a dust mask (disposable or cartridge type).

OSHA (29 CFR 1910.94) requires a continuous flow air-line supplied respirator with hood for protection in abrasive blasting operations.

Exposure Standards Inhalable general nuisance dust:

(<sup>1</sup> TLV, Occupational)            TWA – 10mg/m<sup>3</sup> (ACGIH)

Respirable quartz dust:

TWA – 0.1mg/m<sup>3</sup> (ACGIH)

<sup>1</sup>TLV (Threshold Limit Value) is the exposure standard term used by American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH)



**Radiation**

Exposure <sup>2</sup> Occupational exposure should be as low as reasonably achievable, (ALARA principle), but should not exceed a total of 100 milli-seiverts over five consecutive years. (ICRP).

<sup>2</sup> Recommendation of the International Commission on Radiological Protection, ICRP Publication 60, Annals of the ICRP Vol 21, No 1 – 3 1991

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**9. PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES**

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Appearance (Form):	Off white to brownish free running sand, odourless and tasteless
Melting Point:	2100 to 23000 C (3810 to 4170 F)
Vapour Pressure:	Not volatile
Evaporation Rate:	Not volatile
Specific Gravity:	4.6 - 4.8
Solubility in Water:	Insoluble
pH:	5 – 7.5
Bulk Density:	2700 - 2950 kg/m3
Grain size:	60-212 micron

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**10. STABILITY AND REACTIVITY**

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Reactivity:	Inert
Chemical Stability:	Stable
Incompatibilities:	None in normal or expected use.
Decomposition:	Decomposition will not occur.

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**11. TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION**

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No toxicological information available.

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**12. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION**

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The material is unlikely to cause any environmental damage. It is insoluble in water and is unlikely to contaminate waterways or food chains.



## MINERAL SANDS RESOURCES (PTY) LTD

Material Safety Data Sheet

Zircon/Rutile Concentrate

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### 13. DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS

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Disposal must be in accordance with Federal, State and Local Council regulations. If approved, may be transferred to an approved landfill site.

Note: Many countries developed regulations for the disposal of waste containing Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (NORM) or Technologically Enhanced Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (TENORM) above background levels. Consult and comply with current regulations.

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### 14. TRANSPORT INFORMATION

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May be transported normally as a non-hazardous material.

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### 15. REGULATORY INFORMATION

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#### U.S. Federal Regulations

TSCA Inventory Status: Reported/Included

TITLE III HAZARD CLASSIFICATIONS SECTIONS 311, 312

Acute: No

Chronic: Yes

Fire: No

Reactivity: No

Pressure: No

#### *Lists*

SARA Extremely Hazardous Substance: No

CERCLA Hazardous Material: No

SARA Toxic Chemical: No

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### 16. OTHER INFORMATION

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Note: This product contains small quantities of quartz and radionuclides, both known to cause cancer.

#### Preparation Information

This MSDS has been prepared by Mineral Sands Resources (Pty) Ltd, Safety Health and Environment Department.