Formamide
SigmaUltra

Product Number  F 5786
Store at Room Temperature

Product Description
Molecular Formula:  CH₃NO
Molecular Weight:  45.04
CAS Number:  75-12-7
Melting Point:  2.55 °C
Boiling Point:  210.5 °C (760 torr; partial decomposition occurs into carbon monoxide and ammonia at atmospheric pressure starting at 180 °C)
Molarity (neat liquid):  25.09 (based on density of 1.13 g/ml)
Synonyms:  methanamide; carbamaldehyde

Trace elemental analyses have been performed on the SigmaUltra formamide. The Certificate of Analysis provides lot-specific results. SigmaUltra formamide is for applications which require tight control of elemental content.

Formamide is a reagent that is an ionizing solvent in aqueous buffers. It is widely utilized in biochemistry and molecular biology, particularly in nucleic acids research. Procedures have been reported for the use of formamide in DNA sequencing and in polyacrylamide sequencing gels, which helps to eliminate secondary structure in nucleic acids and thus compressions in the gel data. Other protocols incorporate formamide for RNA denaturation, Northern blot hybridization and stripping, ribonuclease protection assays, RNA storage, and Southern hybridization. The use of formamide for the quantitation of mRNAs in hepatocytes solubilized in guanidium thiocyanate has been reported.

Protocols have been described for the use of formamide in DNA isolation from cultured bacteriophage λ and cultured mammalian cells. Formamide may be included at levels up to 50% in a streptavidin-induced electrophoretic mobility shift procedure for the isolation of single-stranded DNA from PCR products.

Formamide is also utilized in such large scale applications as the manufacture of formic esters, the production of hydrocyanic acid by catalytic dehydration, and as a softener for paper. A study of the use of formamide to recover estradiol degradation products in a transdermal drug delivery formulation has been published. A protocol that incorporates formamide into the analysis of β-blocker compounds by nonaqueuous capillary electrophoresis coupled to electrospray ionization mass spectrometry has been described.

Precautions and Disclaimer
For Laboratory Use Only. Not for drug, household or other uses.

Preparation Instructions
This product is miscible in water (formamide:water, 50% v/v), yielding a clear, colorless solution.

Storage/Stability
Once the bottle is opened and the formamide is exposed to oxygen, this product will begin to oxidize to formic acid. Therefore, once opened, the bottle will need to be purged with nitrogen and stored frozen to prevent oxidation.

References
1. The Merck Index, 12th ed., Entry# 4264.