





COSHH Assessment					
Substance Identification and Assessment Record Sheet					
<b>Product name</b>	Sooty Bark Disease (Cryptostroma corticale)				
<b>Substance</b>	<p>Sooty like fungus caused by cryptostroma parasite</p> <p>Sooty bark is a lethal disease of Acer pseudoplatanus. It is characterized by wilt, die-back, bark shedding and by the production of a thick layer of brownish black, dry phialospores in the bark by a fungus invading the cambium and phloem of affected trees.</p> <p>It has spread around the UK since 1945. The fungus is an aggressive parasite and is normally spread by air-borne spores entering through wounds and broken ends of branches.</p>				
<b>Appearance</b>	 <p>Most likely to appear following a long period of warm weather.</p>				
<b>Odour</b>	Unknown				
<b>Manufacturer / Supplier</b>	N/A				
<b>Emergency Contact number</b>	Nearest medical centre if necessary.				
<b>Safety Data Sheet held on file</b>	Research material is held in the company library.				
<b>Hazard Identification</b>					
<b>Health Hazards</b>	<b>Inhalation</b>	<b>Eye Contact</b>	<b>Skin Contact</b>	<b>Ingestion</b>	<b>None</b>
	X				
<b>Use or Occurrence</b> <i>How much will be used or how great will the exposure be?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most likely to appear following a long period of warm weather.</li> <li>Operator exposure dependant exposure to infected trees.</li> </ul>				
<b>Who could be affected and how often</b>	Operators and those in the near vicinity.				
<b>How could they be affected</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inhaling spores could trigger asthma like symptoms or allergic reaction.</li> <li>Handlers who inhale the massive number of spores may develop inflammation of the lungs which could have long term adverse health effects or cause occupational asthma.</li> </ul>				
<b>Procedures to minimise use</b>	Surveyors must identify sooty bark as a specific hazard on the site-specific risk assessment so that the team leaders can implement controls accordingly and brief the team on the safe system of work.				

<b>Controls to minimise exposure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not breathe spores.</li> <li>Ensure adequate PPE is worn at all times.</li> <li>Select most suitable staff with no pre-existing asthmatic, bronchial or allergic type conditions.</li> <li>Phase works with other tree species if possible to reduce exposure.</li> <li>Rotate operatives between sites to reduce exposure.</li> <li>Ensure staff are aware of how to recognise sooty bark disease and the symptoms infection may produce.</li> </ul>
<b>PPE required for working with concentrated product or during times of high exposure</b>	
<b>PPE required for working with prepared product</b>	 <p>FFP3 dust masks must be used and these must be correctly face fitted.</p>
<b>Specific Monitoring Required</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All operators must be subject to health surveillance for respiratory illness.</li> <li>Operators must be briefed to report any kind of respiratory illness following work on site as an incident.</li> <li>The incident must be logged and managed in line with the corrective action, root cause analysis and preventive action cycle.</li> </ul>
<b>Maintenance of Equipment and Process</b>	Areas of sooty bark can be damped down with water spray if the infestation is significant.
<b>Monitor Exposure Formally</b>	Record each exposure in case as an incident in case the symptoms develop.
<b>Monitor Health Formally</b>	Be aware of staff with pre-existing bronchial conditions and monitor closely if conditions worsen.
<b>Inhalation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Move away from the infested area immediately.</li> <li>If irritation or discomfort persists seek medical advice, informing the medical practitioner you have been in contact with sooty bark disease.</li> </ul>
<b>Eye Contact</b>	Not normally a route of exposure however if irritation persists seek medical advice.
<b>Skin Contact</b>	Wash away with clean water.
<b>Ingestion</b>	Not considered a route of exposure.
<b>Spillage / Environmental protection Measures</b>	Areas of sooty bark can be damped down with water spray if the infestation is significant. Processing the timber and bark using a woodchipper is likely to cause the spores to become airborne thus potentially infecting other trees and worsening the operator exposure.
<b>Fire</b>	N/A
<b>Storage</b>	Reference must be made to the COSHH assessment and safe system of work for handling and storing wood chip.
<b>Assessed by</b>	Elcoat Ltd
<b>Date</b>	Date as per the footer
<b>Review before date</b>	Within 12 months of the date in the footer