**NITRIC ACID (HNO₃)**

**OTHER NAMES**
- aqua fortis
- spirit of niter

**USES**
- fertilizers, precursor to organic nitrogen compounds, nylon production, explosives, rocket propellant, woodworking, cleaning, etching, analytical reagent

**HAZARDS**
- Corrosive to metal and skin: can cause severe skin burns and eye damage.
- Oxidizing liquid: may intensify fires. Reacts with incompatibles to produce gas and heat, which can overpressure and burst storage containers.
- Incompatibles with: flammables, bases, hydrogen sulfide, organic materials, metals, and metal compounds.

**REDUCE RISKS**
- Before beginning work—familiarize yourself with the dangers and precautions needed when handling nitric acid. Read the SDS.
- All work should be performed in a fume hood (clear away all organics, flammables, and other incompatibles).
- Never work alone.
- Wear long pants, goggles, gloves, laboratory coat, and fully enclosed shoes.
- Choose gloves appropriate to the hazard using...C₃D₂
  - Chemicals
  - Concentration
  - Contact Type
  - Duration
  - Dexterity
- Store nitric acid properly: do not store with incompatibles. Ensure the bottle is within secondary containment. Keep a fully stocked acid spill kit in the laboratory in case of spills.
- Dispose of nitric acid properly: do not place into a bottle containing incompatibles. Ensure the bottle has been completely cleaned/rinsed before using it for nitric acid waste if it previously contained incompatibles.

**IN CASE OF EXPOSURE**
(For all exposures, seek immediate medical attention)
- If on skin: wash with plenty of soap and water and seek medical advice.
- If in eyes: rinse cautiously with water for several minutes. Remove contact lenses if present and easy to do so. Continue rinsing and seek medical attention.

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