

**product technical  
information**

**SLES**

SLES is a high active, cosmetic-grade of sodium laureth sulfate, made by continuous SO<sub>3</sub> sulphation of a narrow cut, ethoxylated(2EO) alcohol, followed by neutralization with caustic soda.

**Characteristics**

<b>Physical</b>	
Appearance at 25°C	White or light yellow gelatinous paste
Odor @25°C	Characteristics
Freezing point	~10°C
<b>Chemical</b>	
Active Matter	70.0 ± 2.0 %
Unsulphated Matter	3.5% max
Sodium Sulphate	1.5% max
pH (1% AM solution)	6.5-11.0
1,4-Dioxane	20 ppm max

**Applications**

SLES is a versatile toiletry raw material and widely used in the formulation of shampoos, foam bath preparations, other toiletry and cleaning products.

SLES is especially useful in high active formulations by virtue of its excellent solubility characteristics and mildness to the skin.

**Storage**

SLES is sensitive to changes in temperature and pH. Decomposition can occur at temperatures above 40 °C or in acidic conditions ( pH below 5 ).

Decomposition is caused by hydrolysis and decomposed product, being acid, will catalyse further hydrolysis.

Store at a temperature below its set point will require re-heating with consequent danger of over-heating and decomposition especially close to the source of heating.

Such extreme conditions of storage, handling and use should be avoided.

SLES contains a small amount of citric acid, acting as pH buffer and therefore counteract hydrolysis.

Store at 15-40°C is recommended, and avoid long-term storage above 35°C.

## **Dilution**

The method of dilution should always be to add the SLES to the water and not the reverse; otherwise it will result in an extremely viscous product.

Our technical department is available to discuss and give the guidance on any particular aspect of the use of this product.

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