

⁵⁵Fe	Nuclide Safety Data Sheet Iron-55 www.nchps.org	⁵⁵Fe
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I. PHYSICAL DATA

Radiation: Gammas/X-rays: 6 keV (~25% abundance); 7 keV (~3%)¹
 Auger electrons: 5.2 keV [average]¹

Half-Life [T_{1/2}] : Physical T_{1/2}: 2.70 years¹
 Biological T_{1/2}: 11.9 years
 Effective T_{1/2}: 2.2 years²

Specific Activity: 2.40E3 Ci/g [89.1 TBq/g] max.¹

II. RADIOLOGICAL DATA

Radiotoxicity³: 1.64E-10 Sv/Bq (0.61 mrem/uCi) of ⁵⁵Fe ingested [CEDE]
 7.26E-10 Sv/Bq (2.69 mrem/uCi) of ⁵⁵Fe inhaled [CEDE]

Critical Organ: Spleen, [blood]

Intake Routes: Ingestion, inhalation, puncture, wound, skin contamination (absorption);

Radiological Hazard: Internal Exposure; Contamination

III. SHIELDING

None required - not considered an external radiation hazard

IV. DOSIMETRY MONITORING

No external dosimetry needed; if intake is suspected, blood sample may be chemically processed to separate the iron and counted in a proportional counter.

V. DETECTION & MEASUREMENT

Since the 5.9 keV X-ray is easily absorbed, ⁵⁵Fe must be chemically separated from the blood or other type of sample. It can then be deposited on a planchet and counted in a gas flow proportional counter.

Wipe Test: Liquid Scintillation Counter

VI. SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS

- Avoid skin contamination [absorption], ingestion, inhalation, & injection [all routes of intake]

¹ Health Physics & Radiological Health Handbook, 3rd Ed. [Baltimore, MD; Williams & Wilkins, 1998], p. 8-51

² Palmer et al, Iron-55 in Man and the Environment, *Health Phys.* 13(8): 889-895 (1967).

³ Federal Guidance Report No. 11 [Oak Ridge, TN; Oak Ridge National Laboratory, 1988], p. 124, 157

VII. GENERAL PRECAUTIONS

1. Maintain your occupational exposure to radiation As Low As Reasonably Achievable [ALARA].
2. Ensure all persons handling radioactive material are trained, registered, & listed on an approved protocol.
3. Review the nuclide characteristics on (reverse side) prior to working with that nuclide. Review the protocol(s) authorizing the procedure to be performed and follow any additional precautions in the protocol. Contact the responsible Principal Investigator to view the protocol information.
4. Plan experiments to minimize external exposure by reducing exposure time, using shielding and increasing your distance from the radiation source. Reduce internal and external radiation dose by monitoring the worker and the work area after each use of radioactive material, then promptly cleaning up any contamination discovered. Use the smallest amount of radioisotope possible so as to minimize radiation dose and radioactive waste.
5. Keep an accurate inventory of radioactive material, including records of all receipts, transfers & disposal. Perform and record regular lab surveys.
6. Provide for safe disposal of radioactive waste by following institutional waste handling & disposal procedures. Avoid generating mixed waste (combinations of radioactive, biological, and chemical waste). Note lab staff are not permitted to pour measurable quantities of radioactive material down the drain.
7. If there is a question regarding any aspect of the radiation safety program or radioactive material use, contact Radiation Safety.

VIII. LAB PRACTICES

1. Disposable gloves, lab coats, and safety glasses are the minimum PPE [Personal Protective Equipment] required when handling radioactive material. Remove & discard potentially contaminated PPE prior to leaving the area where radioactive material is used.
2. Clearly outline radioactive material use areas with tape bearing the legend "radioactive". Cover lab bench tops where radioactive material will be handled with plastic-backed absorbent paper; change this covering periodically and whenever it's contaminated. Alternatively cover benches with thick plastic sheeting (i.e., painter's drop cloth), periodically wipe it clean and replace it if torn.
3. Label each unattended radioactive material container with the radioactive symbol, isotope, activity, and, except for waste, the ICN [inventory control number]. Place containers too small for such labels in larger labeled containers.
4. Handle radioactive solutions in trays large enough to contain the material in the event of a spill.
5. Never eat, drink, smoke, handle contact lenses, apply cosmetics, or take/apply medicine in the lab; keep food, drinks, cosmetics, etc. out of the lab entirely. Do not pipette by mouth.
6. Never store [human] food and beverage in refrigerators/freezers used for storing radioisotopes.
7. Prevent skin contact with skin-absorbable solvents containing radioactive material.
8. Fume hoods and biological safety cabinets for use with non-airborne radioactive material must be approved (through the protocol) and must be labeled "Caution Radioactive Material".
9. All volatile, gaseous, or aerosolized radioactive material must be used only in a properly operating charcoal and/or HEPA filtered fume hood or Biological Safety Cabinet bearing a Caution Airborne Radioactivity hood label, unless otherwise specified in writing by the Radiation Safety Officer. In particular, radioactive iodination must be performed only in these specially designed fume hoods. The Radiation Safety Officer (through a protocol) must approve all such use.
10. Take special precautions when working with radioactive compounds that tend to become volatile [e.g. ^{35}S labeled amino acids, ^{125}I - iodine tends to volatilize in acidic solutions]. These precautions may include: using the materials only within an approved fume hood, protecting the house vacuum system with primary and secondary vapor trapping devices, and covering active cell cultures with carbon-impregnating paper.
11. Use sealed containers and appropriate secondary containment to carry radioactive material between rooms Notify Radiation Safety staff before taking any radioactive material off site.