



# SAFETY DATA SHEET

## SYMBIO COMPOST TEA STARTER PACK

SDS COMPLETED 11<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2015

VERSION 01

REVISION NUMBER: N/A

### 1. PRODUCT AND COMPANY IDENTIFICATION

#### 1.1 Identification of the substance/mixture and of the company/undertaking

Compost and starter ingredients for Compost Teas

#### 1.2 Relevant identified uses of the substance or mixture and uses advised against:

**Identified uses:** Soil conditioner. Plant growth stimulant.

**Uses advised against:** None known

#### 1.3 Details of the supplier of the safety data sheet:

**Company name:**

Eco Solutions (C&R) Ltd T/a Symbio

Unit 8

Coopers Place

Combe Lane

Wormley

Surrey

GU8 5SZ

**Tel:** +44 (0) 1428 685762

**Fax:** +44 (0)1428 685702

**Email:** [info@symbio.co.uk](mailto:info@symbio.co.uk)

#### 1.4 Emergency telephone contact:

**Tel:** +44 (0) 1428 685762

### 2. HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION

#### 2.1 Classification of the substance or mixture

**Classification** Compost bio aerosols are a substance hazardous to health as defined by the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) 2002 (as amended). Although they have no occupational exposure limits, they are potential respiratory sensitisers.

**Classification of substance/mixture according to Regulation (EC)**

**1272/2008** This solid does not meet the criteria for classification in accordance to the regulation

**Physical hazards:** Not classified for physical hazards

**Health hazards:** Eye irritation Category 2

Irritant to respiratory system (long term) Category 1

Skin irritant Category 2

**Hazard summary:**

Avoid contact with the eyes. Avoid hand and eye contact.

Long term use can irritate the skin. Use protective gloves and overalls if **regularly** handling product. Overalls need washing at a high temperature before reuse. Wash hands and forearms before doing anything else. Dermatitis can be caused by poor handling practices. Advise up to date tetanus.

Short and long term use can affect the respiratory system. It can: aggravate pre-existing conditions, such as asthma and bronchitis;



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aggravate pre-existing conditions if you have weakened immune system or damaged lungs. Repeated inhalation of compost bio aerosols in large concentrations has been shown to trigger the immune system, and can lead to developing asthma or extrinsic allergic alveolitis (similar to farmer's lung disease)/aspergillosis. Do not breathe in dust. Prevent dust from getting into the air. If insufficient ventilation, wear respiratory equipment.

**Environmental hazards:** None

**Specific hazards:** In the compost manufacture, micro-organisms (fungal/mould spores such as the fungus *Aspergillus fumigatus* and certain types of bacteria called actinomycetes) are encouraged to grow to break down waste material, resulting in very large numbers of these micro-organisms being present. Any handling of the material that generates dust will create a bio aerosol (micro-organisms made airborne).

**Main symptoms:** Coughing, dryness in throat. Watery or swollen eyes. Dry and itchy skin.

**2.2. Label elements**

**Label according to Regulation (EC) No.** 1272/2008

**Contains:** Natural organic material

**Hazard Pictograms:**



**Signal word:** Warning

**Hazard statements:** Respiratory, skin and eye irritant

**Precautionary statements:** For regular use, use in well ventilated area. If user has pre-existing condition such as asthma, wear a mask. Wash hands and clothes thoroughly after use. Avoid contact with the eyes.

**2.3. Other hazards**

**Other hazards:** Not a PBT or vPvB substance or mixture.

**3. COMPOSITION/INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS**

**3.1 Substances**

This fungal based compost is made by blending naturally occurring materials such as plant mulch, bran and fish meal. The starter packs contain a by-product of sugar factories in countries growing sugar cane and/or sugar refineries processing raw cane sugar. A dark brown syrupy liquid with earthy caramel-like, non-pungent smell with Potassium salt of humic substances; Humic acids, potassium salts

**3.2 Mixtures**

The materials contain a variety of living micro-organisms, including bacteria, fungi and protozoa.

Name of component	Content of humic Components (%)	Content K (%)	CAS number	EINECS number	Symbol of hazard	R-sentences
Humic acids, Potassium salts	> 60%*	14-16%	68514-28-3	271-030-1	None	none



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### 4. FIRST AID MEASURES

#### 4.1 Description of first aid measures

**Inhalation:** Get rid of the exposing source. Remove victim to fresh air and keep at rest in a position comfortable for breathing. Cleanse mouth with water. If irritation persists, seek medical attention.

**Ingestion:** Rinse mouth. Give water to drink. Do not evoke vomiting. Seek medical attention if any abnormal abdominal symptoms

**Skin contact:** Wash thoroughly with mild soap and water. In case of persistent symptoms, contact a doctor.

**Eye contact:** Flush the contaminated eye(s) thoroughly with lukewarm water until the product is removed or until irritation has ceased. If eye irritation persists, seek medical attention.

#### 4.2 Most important symptoms and effects, both acute and delayed

Difficulty breathing

Itchy skin

Swollen and itchy eyes

#### 4.3 Indication of any immediate medical attention and special treatment needed

Asthma attack as per victims asthma plan

### 5. FIREFIGHTING MEASURES

#### 5.1 Extinguishing media

**Suitable extinguishing media:** Water, foam, mud, earth, sand.

**Unsuitable extinguishing media:** Do not use carbon dioxide or powder appliances for extinguishing for powder material may be blown up, do not use bold stream of water.

#### 5.2 Special hazards arising from the substance or mixture

The compost is packed in plastic bags. Do not breathe combustible vapours. In case of fire dangerous flue gases – carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, potassium oxides.

#### 5.3 Advice for firefighters

**Special protective equipment for firefighters:** Wear self-contained breathing apparatus

**Special firefighting procedures:** This material contains a high percentage of organic matter and will slowly burn. If ignited, the interior portion of the material may continue to burn when the surface fire appears to be extinguished

### 6. ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES

#### 6.1 Personal precautions, protective equipment and emergency procedures

Use personal protective equipment. Avoid skin and eye contact, conform common hygienic measures. Do not eat or smoke while working. Do not use open fire.

**For non-emergency personnel:** Wet sweep to limit dust or vacuum up

**For emergency responders:** Wet sweep to limit dust or vacuum up



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**6.2. Environmental precautions**

Avoid water and soil contamination.

**6.3. Methods and material for containment and cleaning up**

In case of leak (spill), remove the spill substance with mechanical means – sweeping, hoovering. Place the residues into a suitable waste container.

**6.4. Reference to other sections**

2.1

**7. HANDLING AND STORAGE**

**7.1. Precautions for safe handling**

See 2.1 and 6.1 plus Handle the product only in designed areas. Prevent dust generation. Drinking, smoking and eating forbidden while working. No special measures are needed at handling.

**7.2. Conditions for safe storage, including any incompatibilities**

Store and stock the substance in original casings, in dry environment and protect it against climatic effects.

**7.3. Specific end use(s)**

See 1.2

**8. EXPOSURE CONTROLS/PERSONAL PROTECTION**

The control exposition parameters are not defined (Annex No.2 Chemical substances, their hygienic limits and definition procedure (NV No.361/2007 Coll.). The limiting values of the biological exposition test indicators are not defined either (Annex No.2 Limiting values of biological exposition tests indicators (Regulation No. 432/2003 Coll.).

**8.1. Control parameters**

No occupational exposure limit.

**8.2. Exposure controls for Bulk handling**

Provide sufficient ventilation, local exhaustion is recommended. Provide the people working with the product to use personal protective means and acquainted with the substance character, instruction manual and personal and environmental protection conditions. Contaminated work cloths can be used again after careful cleaning. After the work is completed wash the hands and face with water and soap and treat the hands with a reparable cream.

<b>Appropriate engineering</b>	N/A
<b>Controls</b>	Handle/use in a well ventilated area
<b>Individual protection measures, such as personal protective equipment</b>	Regular and long term use and bulk handling: wear gloves, respirator, overalls
<b>General information</b>	No special equipment is needed for occasional handling. Regular handling – follow advice in 2.1 and 2.2
<b>Eye/face protection</b>	Not required in normal use. If in doubt wear protective glasses or goggles



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<b>Skin protection</b>	If <b>regularly</b> handling product wear overalls. Overalls need washing at a high temperature before reuse.
<b>Hand protection</b>	Use protective gloves. If not using gloves, wash hands with soap and water before doing any other task.
<b>Other</b>	
<b>Respiratory protection</b>	If regularly handling product, use respirator. Respirator or facecloth in emergency (when dust particles release)
<b>Thermal hazards</b>	
<b>Hygiene measures</b>	Wash hands thoroughly before doing any other task. Clothes need washing at a high temperature before reuse.
<b>Environmental exposure Controls</b>	

#### 9. PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

##### 9.1. Information on basic physical and chemical properties

<b>Appearance</b>	Brown to greyish blend of natural organic and mineral substances
<b>Physical state</b>	Moist granules
<b>Form</b>	Solid
<b>Colour</b>	Brown/Black
<b>Odour</b>	Earthy/ Weak caramel
<b>Odour threshold</b>	NA
<b>pH</b>	4.8 – 11.5
<b>Melting point/freezing point</b>	NA
<b>Initial boiling point and boiling</b>	NA
<b>Range</b>	Not known
<b>Flash point</b>	Not known
<b>Evaporation rate</b>	Not available
<b>Flammability (solid, gas)</b>	Non flammable
<b>Vapour pressure</b>	527 Pa under 20°C; 651 Pa under 25°C - <i>EU A.4 method</i>
<b>Vapour density</b>	Not available
<b>Relative density</b>	1.499 - <i>EU A.3 method</i>
<b>Solubility(ies)</b>	Not readily soluble
<b>Partition coefficient</b>	NA
<b>Decomposition temperature</b>	Not available
<b>Viscosity</b>	NA
<b>Explosive properties</b>	Not available
<b>Oxidizing properties</b>	Not available

##### 9.2. Other information

No relevant additional information available.

#### 10. STABILITY AND REACTIVITY



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**10.1. Reactivity**

Burning can produce CO<sub>2</sub> and water, N compounds

**10.2. Chemical stability**

Stable under normal conditions of storage

**10.3. Possibility of hazardous Reactions**

None known – store in a dry, well ventilated area

**10.4. Conditions to avoid**

Contact with strong oxidants, risk of explosion danger.

**10.5 Incompatible materials**

Strong acids and alkalis, oxidising agents

**10.6 Hazardous decomposition products**

May evolve toxic gases if heated to decomposition. Carbon dioxide, potassium oxide can release in fire.

**11. TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION**

**General information**

Occupational exposure to the substance or mixture may cause adverse effects.

**Information on likely routes of exposure** Ingestion – unlikely under normal conditions

See 2.1 for the following: **inhalation, skin contact, eye contact, symptoms**

**11.1. Information on toxicological effects**

**Acute toxicity**

**Skin corrosion/irritation**

Dust may irritate skin and result in dermatitis. See 2.1

**Eye damage/irritation**

See 2.1

**Respiratory sensitisation**

Dust may irritate lungs. See 2.1

**Skin sensitisation**

See 2.1

**Germ cell mutagenicity**

Not applicable

**Carcinogenicity**

Not classified

**Reproductive toxicity**

Not applicable

**Specific target organ toxicity - single exposure**

Not applicable

**Specific target organ toxicity - repeated exposure**

Not applicable

**Aspiration hazard**

See 2.1

**Mixture versus substance Information**

Not available.

**Other information**

Not available.

**11.2 Symptoms / routes of exposure**

**Inhalation:** The substance can cause irritation of respiratory organs.

**Ingestion:** The substance can cause sensitive individuals irritation of alimentary tract.

**Eye contact:** The substance can cause sensitive individuals eye irritation.



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**Skin contact:** The substance can cause sensitive individuals skin irritation.

**12. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION**

**12.1. Toxicity**

No adverse environmental effects are known

**12.2. Persistence and degradability**

No information available

**12.3. Bioaccumulative potential**

**Bioconcentration factor (BCF)** No information available

**12.4. Mobility in soil**

**Mobility in general** No information available

**12.5. Results of PBT and vPvB assessment**

NA

**12.6. Other adverse effects**

Unknown

**13. DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**13.1. Waste treatment methods**

**Residual waste** Spread over land as a soil conditioner  
**Contaminated packaging** Dispose of bag in accordance with local and national guidelines  
**EU waste code** Unknown

**14. TRANSPORT INFORMATION**

Not classified as a dangerous good. Non hazardous  
ADR (Road transport) RID (rail transport) ADN (Waterways transport) IATA (Air transport)

**14.1. UN number**

None allocated

**14.2. UN proper shipping**

**14.3. Transport hazard class(es)**

Subsidiary class(es)



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**14.4. Packing group**

**14.5. Environmental hazards**

Tunnel restriction code

Labels required

**14.6. Special precautions**

**15. REGULATORY INFORMATION**

**15.1. Safety, health and environmental regulations/legislation specific for the substance or mixture**

**EU regulations**

Not known

**Authorisations**

**Other EU regulations**

**Other regulations**

**National regulations**

**Restrictions on use**

Agricultural and horticultural use

**15.2. Chemical safety assessment**

A chemical safety assessment has not been carried out for the substance or the mixture by the supplier.

**16. OTHER INFORMATION**

**List of abbreviations** EU – European Union

PBT pH

SDS – Safety Data Sheet vPvB

UN – United Nations

**References** See <http://www.hse.gov.uk/waste/composting.htm> for advice on composting

Respiratory protective equipment at work: A practical guide HSG53 (Third edition) HSE Books 2005 ISBN 0 7176 2904 X

Preventing asthma at work. How to control respiratory sensitisers L55 HSE Books 1994 ISBN 0 7176 0661 9

Common zoonoses in agriculture Agriculture Information Sheet AIS2(rev2) HSE Books 2000

See [www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/agindex.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/agindex.htm) for other advice on health and safety risks in agriculture.

**Information on evaluation method leading to the classification of mixture** Internet research

**Full text of any statements or R-phrases and H-statements under Sections 2 to 15**

H335 - May cause respiratory irritation.

**Training information**

This SDS contains revisions in the following section(s) NA

**Disclaimer**

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