

## PEARLIZING AGENT Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)

### 1. Composition & Hazardous Ingredients

Pearlizing blends usually contain:

- **Glycol Distearate** (fatty acid ester)
- **Laureth-4** (or Laureth-n) – a polyethylene glycol ether
- **Cocamidopropyl Betaine** or Cocamide MEA  
Sometimes **Sodium Laureth Sulfate (SLES)** is included, depending on the variant

### 2. Hazards Identification

These mixtures are generally considered **mild hazards**:

- May cause **mild skin or eye irritation**, especially at higher concentrations.
- Some components (e.g. laureth surfactants) may contain trace impurities like 1,4-dioxane or ethylene oxide—potential irritants or low-level sensitizers.
- Not classified as flammable; non-combustible pastes or liquids.

### 3. First Aid

- **Skin contact**: rinse with plenty of water; remove contaminated clothing.
- **Eye contact**: flush with water for at least 15 minutes; see medical attention if irritation persists.
- **Ingestion/inhalation**: rinse mouth, do not induce vomiting; if inhaled, move to fresh air.

### 4. Handling & Storage

- Store in a **cool, dry, well-ventilated area**, away from strong acids or oxidizers.
- Use **personal protective equipment**: gloves and eye protection; avoid ingesting or prolonged skin contact.

### 5. Physical & Chemical Properties

- Typically a **pearly white viscous liquid or paste**, sometimes solidifies below  $\sim -2$  °C
- pH (10% aqueous) around neutral (pH  $\sim 5-8$ ).
- Low volatility; not likely to produce inhalable dust.

### 6. Exposure Controls / PPE

- **Glove use** to prevent skin contact.

- In confined areas, minimal ventilation is usually sufficient. No specific occupational exposure limits are commonly set.

## 7. Stability & Reactivity

- Chemically stable under normal storage conditions.
- Avoid strong acids or oxidizing agents.

## 8. Toxicological Information

- Acute oral or dermal toxicity typically **low**.
- Not known to be carcinogenic, mutagenic, or reproductive toxin based on available literature.
- Persons with sensitive skin may experience irritation or allergic reaction.

## Physical and Chemical Properties (typical / approximate)

These will vary by formulation, but you might see:

- Appearance: pearlescent liquid, paste, or dispersion
- Color: white / pearly
- Odor: mild / surfactant odor
- pH (aqueous dilution): often mildly acidic to neutral (e.g. pH ~5–8)
- Solubility: dispersible / soluble in water (depends on surfactants)
- Melting / softening point: as per ester (glycol distearate) content
- Viscosity: might be viscous paste or thick liquid
- Flash point: likely high or not flammable under normal conditions

## 10. Stability and Reactivity

- Generally stable under normal conditions.
- Incompatible with strong oxidizing agents, strong acids, or reactive chemicals.
- May decompose under high heat, producing irritating or toxic gases (e.g. oxides of nitrogen, carbon oxides, etc.).

## 11. Toxicological Information / Health Effects

- **Acute toxicity:** usually low for the surfactant / ester components.
- **Skin / eye irritation:** mild to moderate irritation depending on exposure level and sensitivity.
- **Sensitization:** some formulations (especially preservatives or certain surfactants) may act as skin sensitizers in susceptible individuals.
- **Chronic exposure:** depends on repeated contact; possible dermatitis, respiratory irritation (for mists/dust).

## 12. Ecological / Environmental Information

- May be harmful to aquatic organisms in concentrated form (especially surfactant components).
- Biodegradability: many pearlizing agents / surfactant blends are designed to be biodegradable or partially biodegradable (for compliance in detergents / cosmetics) (for example EXOpearl SF claims biodegradability compliance)
- Avoid release into the environment without treatment.

### **13. Disposal Considerations**

- Dispose of in accordance with local, regional, national regulations.
  - Do not dispose into waterways or drains unless treated.
  - Neutralize or dilute if appropriate and allowed by regulations.
  - Containers should be rinsed and disposed or recycled as per regulation.
-