

## PRODUCT DATA SHEET



Zinc borate

Hexaboron dizinc undecaoxide, hydrate

Grades: Granular and fine

CAS Number 138265-88-0

## Zinc borate for fire retardancy

*Firebrake*<sup>®</sup> ZB is a white, crystal-like, powdered zinc borate with multifunctional fire-retardant applications in plastic and rubber compounds.

### Applications

*Firebrake* ZB is used as a flame retardant, smoke and afterglow suppressant, and anti-arcing agent in polymer systems such as polyvinyl chloride, nylon, epoxy, polyethylene, polypropylene, polyesters, thermoplastic elastomers, and rubbers.

Since *Firebrake* ZB releases its water of hydration at temperatures exceeding 290°C (554°F), it can be used in systems requiring high processing temperatures. *Firebrake* ZB has a refractive index similar to that of most polymer systems, which results in the retention of considerable translucency and allows the use of low pigment loading. It can be fed to extruders, calenders, or injection molding equipment in much the same way as other solid polymer additives.

Depending on the base polymer and needed fire standards, *Firebrake* ZB can be used to partially (or even completely) replace other fire-retardant additives such as antimony oxide. In some systems, *Firebrake* ZB displays synergism with antimony oxide. In halogen-containing systems, the usage level of *Firebrake* ZB ranges between 3-25 parts per 100 parts of resin (phr). In halogen-free

systems, the recommended level between 10-25 phr, normally used in conjunction with alumina trihydrate, magnesium hydroxide, or a silicone polymer.

*Firebrake* ZB Fine is recommended for applications where maximum fire test performance is needed, and physical properties such as film forming and adhesion are critical.

### Storage

When stored under normal conditions of temperature and humidity, *Firebrake* ZB products are chemically stable and show little tendency to cake.

### Chemical and physical properties

#### Theoretical chemical composition

Boric oxide, B <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> (%)	48.05
Water, H <sub>2</sub> O	14.51
Zinc oxide, ZnO	37.44
Anhydrous equivalent, 2ZnO · 3B <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> (%)	85.49



**Typical properties**

Refractive index	1.58
Median particle size <i>Firebrake ZB</i> <i>Firebrake ZB Fine</i>	(Laser diffraction) 9 microns 2.1 microns
Solubility	Less than 0.28% in water at room temperature
Thermal stability	Stable up to 290°C. Can be hydrolyzed by strong acids and bases.
Specific gravity	2.8
Bulk density	42–60 lbs/ft <sup>3</sup>

**About U.S. Borax**

U.S. Borax, part of Rio Tinto, is a global leader in the supply and science of borates—naturally-occurring minerals containing boron and other elements. We are 1,000 people serving our customers with more than 1,200 delivery locations globally. We supply around 30% of the world’s need for refined borates from our world-class mine in Boron, California, about 100 miles northeast of Los Angeles.

**About 20 Mule Team products**

U.S. Borax produces the *20 Mule Team*<sup>®</sup> borates family of products from naturally occurring minerals and have an excellent reputation for purity and safety when used as directed. Borates are key ingredients in a number of industrial applications including fiberglass, glass, ceramics, batteries and capacitors, wood preservatives, and flame retardants.

High quality, high reliability, high performance borate products. It’s what we’re known for.

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