

Spacecraft Maximum Allowable Concentrations for Airborne Contaminants

Human Health and Performance Directorate

Biomedical Research and Environmental Sciences Control Board
(BRESCB) Controlled

Revision D

February 2026

Internal Publication Notice: This publication does not contain information which falls under the purview of the U.S. Munitions List (USML), as defined in the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR), 22 CFR 120-130 or the Export Administration Regulations (EAR), 15 CFR 730-744, and is not export controlled.



National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
Houston, Texas

Human Health and Performance Directorate	Spacecraft Maximum Allowable Concentrations for Airborne Contaminants	
	Document: JSC 20584	Rev D
	Date: 02/2026	Page: 2

NASA APPROVAL SHEET

Spacecraft Maximum Allowable Concentrations for Airborne Contaminants

Human Health and Performance Directorate

PREPARED BY:	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="flex: 1;"> Edward Williams </div> <div style="font-size: 0.8em; margin-left: 5px;"> Digitally signed by Edward Williams Date: 2026.02.04 09:50:47 -06'00' </div> </div> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 5px 0;"/> <div style="font-size: 0.9em;"> E. Spencer Williams, Ph.D. DABT Toxicologist Environmental Sciences Branch </div>	<hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 5px 0;"/> DATE
CONCURRED:	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="flex: 1;"> Daniel Gazda </div> <div style="font-size: 0.8em; margin-left: 5px;"> Digitally signed by Daniel Gazda Date: 2026.02.04 09:52:45 -06'00' </div> </div> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 5px 0;"/> <div style="font-size: 0.9em;"> Daniel B. Gazda, Ph.D. Chief, Environmental Sciences Branch </div>	<hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 5px 0;"/> DATE
APPROVED:	<hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 5px 0;"/> <div style="font-size: 0.9em;"> Teresa L. Bradshaw Deputy Chief, Biomedical Research and Environmental Sciences Division </div>	<hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 5px 0;"/> DATE

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
 Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
 Houston, Texas

Martin Perez
 (affiliate)

Digitally signed by Martin Perez (affiliate)
 Date: 2026.02.04 09:15:35 -06'00'

Human Health and Performance Directorate	Spacecraft Maximum Allowable Concentrations for Airborne Contaminants	
	Document: JSC 20584	Rev D
	Date: 02/2026	Page: 3

CHANGE HISTORY

Revision/P CN	Date	Authorization/ Originator/Phone	Description
Baseline	09/2017	CR# SA-00308 Valerie E. Ryder 281-483-4989	<p>NOTE: Previous versions of the document were baselined through the STIC Library and not “BASELINED” through a Board. Therefore, the versioning of the document will start at BASELINE for Configuration Management purposes.</p> <p>PREVIOUS INFORMATION FROM STIC BASELINE: Errata</p> <p>Correct CAS numbers are below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75-69-4 (Freon 11) • 111-30-8 (Glutaraldehyde) • 7647-01-0 (Hydrogen chloride) • 5989-27-5 (Limonene) <p>CURRENT UPDATES:</p> <p>Introductory page revised</p> <p>CAS number for Acrolein corrected to 107-02-8</p> <p>Compound names revised to match published NRC Vol. 5: 1-Butanol to n-Butanol; Unsymmetrical Dimethylhydrazine to Dimethylhydrazine</p> <p>C3-C8 Aliphatic Saturated Aldehydes 7-d, 30-d, 180-d, 1000-d values revised to match NRC Vol. 5 (5 ppm)</p> <p>Carbon dioxide (CO₂) SMACs have been deleted – CO₂ does not fit SMAC paradigm and is being managed based on expected performance and health decrements and the associated risks. NASA Standard 3001 is currently under revision to provide guidance on acceptable CO₂ levels.</p> <p>Linear Siloxanes group SMACs added</p> <p>Octamethyltrisiloxane SMACs deleted (replaced by Linear Siloxanes)</p>
Revision A	03/2020	CR# SA-02481 Valerie E. Ryder 281-483-4989	<p>Clarification of SMACs for small chain alkanes (C2-C4) versus longer chain alkanes (C5-C9)</p> <p>Revised SMACs for methanol</p> <p>New SMACs for manganese</p> <p>Updated MAPTIS access information</p>

Human Health and Performance Directorate	Spacecraft Maximum Allowable Concentrations for Airborne Contaminants		
	Document:	JSC 20584	Rev D
	Date:	02/2026	Page: 4

Revision B	11/30/2022	CR # SA-05524 Valerie E. Ryder 281-483-4989	Revised SMACs for propylene glycol New SMACs for n-hexane, hydrogen fluoride, and ethyl acetate
Revision C	6/13/2024	CR# SA-07170 Shannon D. Langford 281-483-2137	Update to acute benzene SMACs Updated toluene SMACs Added new SMACs for hydrogen sulfide Eliminated SMACs for hydrogen and methane which were based on lower explosive limits rather than toxicity Added notation that SMACs are set based on and applicable to ambient conditions (14.7 psi/25°C). Added clarification concerning the hierarchy of this document and specifying that this document is only a reprinting of data published and controlled in other sources. Updated typos for propylene glycol and linear siloxanes.
Revision D	1/6/2026	CR# 20036 E. Spencer Williams 281-483-8921	Added notation for applicability to altered pressure environments; presentation of most SMACs in ppm units only Updated 2-propanol (isopropyl alcohol) SMACs Updated MEK SMACs Updated acetaldehyde SMACs Added 1-propanol SMACs

Human Health and Performance Directorate	Spacecraft Maximum Allowable Concentrations for Airborne Contaminants	
	Document: JSC 20584	Rev D
	Date: 02/2026	Page: 5

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 BACKGROUND..... 6

2.0 PUBLISHED SMACS..... 7

3.0 REFERENCES..... 28

APPENDIX

APPENDIX A ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS30

Human Health and Performance Directorate	Spacecraft Maximum Allowable Concentrations for Airborne Contaminants	
	Document: JSC 20584	Rev D
	Date: 02/2026	Page: 6

1.0 BACKGROUND

SPACECRAFT MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE CONCENTRATIONS FOR AIRBORNE CONTAMINANTS

This document provides a tabular summary of official Spacecraft Maximum Allowable Concentrations (SMACs) for airborne contaminants that have been previously established based on guidelines developed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the National Research Council's Committee on Toxicology, externally peer-reviewed, and published. Complete documentation of the rationale used to establish the values summarized here is provided in the reference section below. Based on documented guidance (NRC, 1992; NRC, 2016), NASA has to date established SMACs for 59 chemical compounds and classes that are particularly relevant to atmospheric contamination of the International Space Station (ISS), commercial vehicles, habitats, and suits as well as Exploration-class vehicles, habitats, rovers, and space suits. Some long-term limits (1000-days) have also been established to support deep-space exploration. The limits are based upon experiments conducted at standard pressure and oxygen environments. However, planned Exploration missions are likely to employ altered atmospheres: reduced atmospheric pressure with an appropriate level of oxygen to accommodate more frequent Extra-Vehicular Activities (EVAs) (e.g., 10.2 psia and 26.5% O₂). To account for uncertainties in physiological changes that may occur in altered atmospheres, a reasonably conservative approach was reviewed and accepted by the Human Health and Performance Directorate to apply the published values in parts per million (ppm) across all atmospheric scenarios. This approach applies only to chemical compounds that enter the vapor phase (i.e., ideal gases); any contaminant present as a particle or aerosol (e.g., manganese particles or mercury droplets) should be considered in gravimetric terms (mg/m³).

As a result of that change, SMACs are listed below in only ppm units. When converting to mg/m³, the atmospheric pressure must be factored into the calculation. At 14.7 psia (i.e., the terrestrial sea level and ISS environment pressure and 25°C), a mole of gas occupies 24.45 L of volume. However, at 8.2 psia (the planned atmospheric pressure for future lunar missions), a mole of gas occupies 43.9 L of volume. Gravimetric measures of each SMAC will vary by atmospheric pressure and as such are not listed.

Human Health and Performance Directorate	Spacecraft Maximum Allowable Concentrations for Airborne Contaminants	
	Document: JSC 20584	Rev D
	Date: 02/2026	Page: 7

To convert from ppm to mg/m³, the following equation is used:

$$\left[\frac{mg}{m^3}\right] = \frac{[ppm]*MW\frac{g}{mol}}{y\ L/mol}$$

where y refers to the volume of air occupied by one mole (L/mol) of a substance at the proposed atmospheric pressure (when temperature = 25C). Potential values for y are as follows:

Atmospheric pressure in psia	Volume of one mole of ideal gas (y, in L/mol)
14.7	22.45
10.2	35.2
8.2	43.8
4.3	83.6

Note: values other than 14.7 represent proposed atmospheres for upcoming missions, while 4.3 psia represents nominal pressure for current EVA posture. Actual pressures should be verified prior to SMAC conversion.

Short-term (1- and 24-hour) SMACs apply to off-nominal situations, such as accidental releases aboard a spacecraft. These limits permit risk of minor, reversible effects, such as mild mucosal irritation. In contrast, the long-term SMACs are set to fully protect healthy crewmembers from adverse effects resulting from continuous exposure to specific air pollutants for up to 1000 days. Because allergic reactions or chemical idiosyncrasy to certain airborne pollutants are very difficult to predict, crewmembers with allergies or unusual sensitivity to trace pollutants may not be afforded complete protection, even when long-term SMACs are not exceeded.

Conversely, exceedance of a SMAC does not mean that health impairment is certain (there are many other factors that influence ultimate health outcomes), although it does indicate that the crew may be subject to increased risks that must be closely evaluated. Environmental pollutant control to mitigate exposure will likely be triggered.

Human Health and Performance Directorate	Spacecraft Maximum Allowable Concentrations for Airborne Contaminants	
	Document: JSC 20584	Rev D
	Date: 02/2026	Page: 8

These values have been specifically established for human spaceflight and are not intended to apply to other situations, such as ground operations. The SMACs take into account a number of unique factors such as the effect of space-flight stress on human physiology, the uniform good health of the astronauts, and the absence of pregnant or very young individuals.

Crewmember exposures involve a mixture of contaminants, each at a specific concentration (C_n). These contaminants could interact to elicit symptoms of toxicity even though individual contaminants do not exceed their respective SMACs. We assume that the effects of a toxicologically similar group of compounds are additive. The air quality is therefore considered acceptable when the toxicity index (T_{grp}) for each toxicological group of compounds is less than 1, where T_{grp} is calculated as follows:

$$T_{grp} = C_1/SMAC_1 + C_2/SMAC_2 + \dots + C_n/SMAC_n$$

Toxicological groups are defined according to the target organ and the nature of the toxic response from exposure to the compounds in the group. As shown in the table of SMACs, the target organ and toxic effect can change depending on the duration of exposure.

In addition to official SMACs used for the evaluation of spacecraft air, the JSC Toxicology Group sets interim 7-day SMAC values that are posted to the “MAPTIS” database, which is used to evaluate materials and hardware off-gassing data. Following registration, these values can be accessed at: <https://maptis.nasa.gov/>. For help with registration or using MAPTIS, contact MAPTIS support at maptissupport@mail.nasa.gov.

2.0 PUBLISHED SMACS



SMACs

Spaceflight Maximum Allowable Concentrations

Chemical	1 hour	24 hour	7 day	30 day	180 day	1000 day	Citation
	off-nominal						
	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	
Acetaldehyde (75-07-0) MW: 44 g/mol	134	50	12.5	4	4	4	Williams and Ryder, 2025
	Effects: Mucosal irritation						
Acetone (67-64-1) MW: 58 g/mol	500	200	22	22	22	Not set	NRC Vol 4, 2000, p. 17-41
	Effects: CNS fatigue and headache						
Acrolein (107-02-8) MW: 56 g/mol	0.075	0.035	0.015	0.015	0.008	0.008	NRC Vol 5, 2008, p. 13-33
	Effects: Mucosal irritation						
C3-C8 Saturated Aliphatic Aldehydes* (Various CASRN, MW)	45	45	5	5	5	5	NRC Vol 5, 2008, p. 34-47
	Effects: Mucosal irritation						
C5-C9 Alkanes [†] (Various CASRN, MW)	150	80	60	20	3	Not set	NRC Vol 5, 2008, p. 85-111
	Effects: CNS depression, eye irritation, ototoxicity						
Ammonia (7664-41-7) MW: 17 g/mol	30	20	3	3	3	3	NRC Vol 5, 2008, p. 48-61
	Effects: Eye irritation, CNS headache						
Benzene (71-43-2) MW: 78 g/mol	40	6.7	0.5	0.1	0.07	0.013	Ryder and Williams, 2023; NRC Vol 5, 2008, p. 62-72
	Effects: CNS depression, immunotoxicity, hematological						
Bromotrifluoromethane (75-63-8) MW: 149 g/mol	3500	3500	1800	1800	1800	Not set	NRC Vol 3, 1996, p. 21-52
	Effects: Cardiac arrhythmia, CNS depression and cognitive impacts						

* includes propanal, butanal, pentanal, hexanal, octanal; † includes pentane, heptane, octane, nonane, and branched isomers, but excludes n-hexane



SMACS

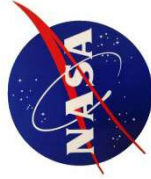
Spaceflight Maximum Allowable Concentrations



Human Health and Performance Directorate	Title: Spacecraft Maximum Allowable Concentrations (SMACs)		
	Document: JSC 20584	Rev D	
	Date: 02/2026	Page: 10	

Chemical	1 hour	24 hour	7 day	30 day	180 day	1000 day	Citation
	off-nominal			nominal			
	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	
n-Butanol* (71-36-3) MW: 74 g/mol	50	25	25	25	12	12	NRC Vol 5. 2008, p. 73-84
	Effects: Eye irritation and systemic injury, CNS depression						
	50	50	50	50	40	Not set	
tert-Butanol (75-65-0) MW: 74 g/mol	Effects: CNS depression, nephrotoxicity, bladder injury						
	425	100	55	15	15	15	NRC Vol 5. 2008, p. 125-143
	Effects: CNS depression, cardiac arrhythmia						
2	2	2	1	1	Not set		
Chloroform (67-66-3) MW: 119 g/mol	Effects: CNS depression, nephrotoxicity, hepatotoxicity						
	Not set	Not set	7	5	1	Not set	NRC Vol 4. 2000, p. 151-174
	Effects: Respiratory system injury, gonad toxicity						
50	50	20	6	4	Not set		
Diacetone alcohol (123-42-2) MW: 116 g/mol	Effects: Mucosal irritation, CNS depression, hepatomegaly						
	0.6	0.04	0.03	0.025	0.015	Not set	NRC Vol 3. 1996, p. 105-116
	Effects: CNS depression, nephrotoxicity, hepatotoxicity						
0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4		
1,2-Dichloroethane [§] (107-06-2) MW: 99 g/mol	Effects: GI and liver toxicity						
	0.4						NRC Vol 5. 2008, p. 144-161

* odor threshold and noxious odor concentrations are uncertain; † carboxyhemoglobin (COHb) is target; ‡ documented as polydimethylsiloxane; § impairs host defenses against bacteria



SMACS

Spaceflight Maximum Allowable Concentrations



Human Health and Performance Directorate	Title: Spacecraft Maximum Allowable Concentrations (SMACs)	
	Document: JSC 20584	Rev D
	Date: 02/2026	Page: 11

Chemical	1 hour	24 hour	7 day	30 day	180 day	1000 day	Citation
	off-nominal						
	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	
Dimethylhydrazine (57-14-7) MW: 60 g/mol	3	0.12	0.03	0.017	0.003	Not set	NRC Vol 5. 2008, p. 162-189
	Effects: CNS depression, anemia, hepatotoxicity						
Ethanol (64-17-5) MW: 46 g/mol	5000	5000	1000	1000	1000	1000	NRC Vol 5. 2008, p. 190-205
	Effects: Eye and mucosal irritation, skin flushing, hepatotoxicity						
2-Ethoxyethanol (110-80-5) MW: 90 g/mol	10	10	0.8	0.5	0.07	Not set	NRC Vol 2. 1996, p. 189-212
	Effects: Mucosal irritation, hematotoxicity, testicular toxicity						
Ethyl acetate (141-78-6) MW: 88 g/mol	400	400	117	117	117	39	Williams and Ryder, 2023
	Effects: Mucosal irritation, body weight reduction						
Ethylbenzene (100-41-4) MW: 106 g/mol	180	60	30	30	12	Not set	NRC Vol 3. 1996, p. 208-231
	Effects: Mucosal irritation, CNS depression, testicular necrosis						
Ethylene glycol (107-21-1) MW: 62 g/mol	25	25	5	5	5	Not set	NRC Vol 3. 1996, p. 232-270
	Effects: Mucosal irritation, CNS depression, nephrotoxicity						
Formaldehyde* (50-00-0) MW: 30 g/mol	0.8	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	NRC Vol 5. 2008, p. 206-249
	Effects: Mucosal irritation, nasal cancer						
Freon 11 (75-69-4) MW: 137 g/mol	140	140	140	140	140	Not set	NRC Vol 4. 2000, p. 211-226
	Effects: Cardiac arrhythmia						

* carcinogen



SMACs

Spaceflight Maximum Allowable Concentrations

Chemical	1 hour	24 hour	7 day	30 day	180 day	1000 day	Citation
	off-nominal			nominal			
	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	
Freon 113 (76-13-1) MW: 187 g/mol	50	50	50	50	50	Not set	NRC Vol 1. 1994, p. 121-138
	Effects: Cardiac arrhythmia						
Freon 12 (75-71-8) MW: 121 g/mol	540	95	95	95	95	Not set	NRC Vol 4. 2000, p. 227-239
	Effects: Cardiac arrhythmia, tachycardia						
Freon 21 (75-43-4) MW: 103 g/mol	50	50	15	12	2	Not set	NRC Vol 4. 2000, p. 175-189
	Effects: Tachycardia, hepatotoxicity						
Freon 22 (75-45-6) MW: 86 g/mol	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	Not set	NRC Vol 4. 2000, p. 190-210
	Effects: CNS depression, cardiac arrhythmia						
Furan* (110-00-9) MW: 68 g/mol	4	0.4	0.025	0.025	0.025	Not set	NRC Vol 4. 2000, p. 307-329
	Effects: Hepatotoxicity						
Glutaraldehyde (111-30-8) MW: 100 g/mol	0.12	0.04	0.006	0.003	0.0006	Not set	NRC Vol 4. 2000, p. 271-291
	Effects: Mucosal irritation, headache, respiratory tract lesions						
Hexamethylcyclotrisiloxane [†] (541-05-9) MW: 222 g/mol	Not set	Not set	10	5	1	Not set	NRC Vol 4. 2000, p. 151-174
	Effects: Respiratory system injury, CNS depression						
n-Hexane (110-54-3) MW: 86 g/mol	200	30	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	Garcia 2021
	Effects: Mucosal irritation, neurotoxicity						

* carcinogen; † documented as polydimethylcyclsiloxane



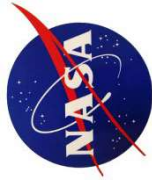
SMACs

Spaceflight Maximum Allowable Concentrations



Chemical	1 hour	24 hour	7 day	30 day	180 day	1000 day	Citation
	off-nominal						
	nominal						
	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	
Hydrazine* (302-01-2) MW: 32 g/mol	4	0.3	0.04	0.02	0.004	Not set	NRC Vol 2. 1996, p. 956-961
	Effects: Death, hepatotoxicity, liver and nasal cancer						
Hydrogen chloride (7647-01-0) MW: 36 g/mol	5	2	1	1	1	Not set	NRC Vol 4. 2000, p. 60-88
	Effects: Mucosal and eye irritation						
Hydrogen cyanide (74-90-8) MW: 27 g/mol	8	4	1	1	1	Not set	NRC Vol 4. 2000, p. 300-365
	Effects: CNS depression, headache, nausea, testicular toxicity, thyroid effects						
Hydrogen fluoride (7664-39-3) MW: 20 g/mol	3	3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	Lam and Ryder, 2022
	Effects: Respiratory irritation						
Hydrogen sulfide† (7683-06-4) MW: 34 g/mol	5	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.3	Not set	Wimberly and Ryder, 2024
	Effects: Nasal irritation and lesions						
Indole† (120-72-9) MW: 117 g/mol	1	0.3	0.05	0.05	0.05	Not set	NRC Vol 2. 1996, p. 235-249
	Effects: Nausea, hematotoxicity, death						
Isoprene (78-79-5) MW: 68 g/mol	50	25	2	2	1	Not set	NRC Vol 4. 2000, p. 89-118
	Effects: Mucosal irritation, anemia, neurotoxicity						
Limonene (5989-27-5) MW: 136 g/mol	80	80	20	20	20	20	NRC Vol 5. 2008, p. 250-274
	Effects: Eye and respiratory irritation						

* carcinogen; † Endpoint includes increased anxiety directly related to odor irritation; ‡ Normal turnover of indole was used to establish a lower bound of 0.05 ppm.



SMACs

Spaceflight Maximum Allowable Concentrations

Chemical	1 hour	24 hour	7 day	30 day	180 day	1000 day	Citation
	off-nominal		nominal				
	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	
Linear siloxanes* (Various CASRN, MW)	600	100	100	50	50	50	Meyers et al., 2013
	Effects: Lung hemorrhage, neurotoxicity, hepatotoxicity						
Manganese [mg/m ³] [†] (7439-96-5)	[3]	[1]	[0.3]	[0.3]	[0.008]	[0.008]	Romoser et al., 2019
	Effects: Lung irritation/lesions, nasal irritation, neurotoxicity						
Mercury (vapor) (7439-97-6) MW: 200 g/mol	0.01	0.002	0.001	0.001	0.001	Not set	NRC Vol 2. 1996, p. 251-276
	Effects: Lung irritation, neurotoxicity, nephrotoxicity						
Mercury [particles, mg/m ³] [†] (7439-97-6)	[0.08]	[0.02]	[0.01]	[0.01]	[0.01]	Not set	NRC Vol 2. 1996, p. 251-276
	Effects: Lung irritation, neurotoxicity, nephrotoxicity						
Methanol (67-56-1) MW: 32 g/mol	70	70	20	20	20	10	Scully et al., 2019
	Effects: Neurotoxicity						
Methyl ethyl ketone (78-93-3) MW: 72 g/mol	50	50	10	10	10	Not set	Ryder 2025; NRC Vol 2. 1996, p. 307-329
	Effects: Mucosal irritation						
Methyl hydrazine [‡] (60-34-4) MW: 46 g/mol	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	Not set	NRC Vol 4. 2000, p. 119-136
	Effect: Nasal lesions						
4-Methyl-2-pentanone (108-10-1) MW: 100 g/mol	35	35	35	35	35	Not set	NRC Vol 4. 2000, p. 240-263
	Effects: CNS depression, mucosal irritation						

* includes hexamethyldisiloxane, octamethyltrisiloxane, decamethyltetrasiloxane, and dodecamethylpentasiloxane; † [] indicate SMAC values that are set in mg/m³; ‡ carcinogen



SMACs

Spaceflight Maximum Allowable Concentrations



Chemical	1 hour	24 hour	7 day	30 day	180 day	1000 day	Citation	
	off-nominal		nominal					
	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm		
	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm		
Methylene chloride* (75-09-2) MW: 85 g/mol	100	35	14	7	3	1	NRC Vol 5. 2008, p. 289-313	
	Effects: CNS depression, hepatotoxicity, nephrotoxicity							
Nitromethane (72-52-5) MW: 61 g/mol	25	15	7	7	5	Not set	NRC Vol 2. 1996, p. 331-350	
	Effects: Anemia							
Octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane [†] (556-67-2) MW: 297 g/mol	Not set	Not set	23	5	1	Not set	NRC Vol 4. 2000, p. 151-174	
	Effects: Gonad toxicity, CNS depression							
Perfluoropropane and Other Aliphatic Perfluoroalkanes [‡] (Various CASRN, MW)	11000	11000	11000	11000	11000	Not set	NRC Vol 4. 2000, p. 137-150	
	Effects: CNS symptoms							
1-Propanol (67-63-0) MW: 60 g/mol	205	100	60	35	35	35	Yap and Ryder, 2025	
	Effects: CNS depression, mucosal irritation, male infertility							
2-Propanol (67-63-0) MW: 60 g/mol	400	100	60	60	60	Not set	Ryder 2026; NRC Vol 2. 1996,p. 351-371	
	Effects: CNS/PNS depression, mucosal irritation, hepatotoxicity							
Propylene glycol (57-55-6) MW: 76 g/mol	64	32	32	32	32	32	Ryder and Williams, 2022; NRC Vol. 5 2008, p. 314-328	
	Effects: Mucosal and eye irritation, fatigue/headache, Hb incr.							
Toluene (108-88-3) MW: 92 g/mol	40	40	40	40	4	4	Tapia et al., 2024; NRC Vol 5. 2008, p. 329-347	
	Effects: CNS depression, ototoxicity, ocular toxicity, decreased hormones							

* CO formation, carcinogen; † documented as polydimethylcyclsiloxane; ‡ CAS and MW listed for PFP only, excludes perfluorocycloalkanes



Spaceflight Maximum Allowable Concentrations

Chemical	1 hour	24 hour	7 day	30 day	180 day	1000 day	Citation
	off-nominal			nominal			
	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	
Trichloroethylene* (79-01-6) MW: 131 g/mol	50	11	9	4	2	Not set	NRC Vol.3, 1996, p. 292-320
Trimethylsilanol (1066-40-6) MW: 90 g/mol	15	2	1	1	1	1	NRC Vol.5, 2008, p. 348-355
	Effects: CNS depression						
Vinyl chloride (75-01-4) MW: 62 g/mol	130	30	1	1	1	Not set	NRC Vol.1, 1994, p. 185-219
	Effects: Hepatotoxicity, headache, CNS depression, testicular necrosis						
Xylenes[†] (1330-20-7) MW: 106 g/mol	50	17	17	17	8.5	1.5	NRC Vol.5, 2008, p. 356-386
	Effects: Mucosal and eye irritation, headache, neuro- and ototoxicity						

* See dichloroacetylene is alkali scrubber is present; † applies to each xylene isomer and mixtures of isomers

Human Health and Performance Directorate	Spacecraft Maximum Allowable Concentrations for Airborne Contaminants	
	Document: JSC 20584	Rev D
	Date: 02/2026	Page: 17

3.0 REFERENCES

Garcia HD, Acceptable Limits for n-Hexane in Spacecraft Atmospheres. Aerospace Medicine and Human Performance. 2021;92(12);956-961.

Lam C-W, Ryder VE. Spacecraft Maximum Allowable Concentrations for Hydrogen Fluoride. Aerospace Medicine and Human Performance. 2022; 93(5);467-469.

NRC (1992) Guidelines for Developing Spacecraft Maximum Allowable Concentration for Space Station Contaminants, National Academy Press, Washington, D.C.

NRC (1994) Spacecraft Maximum Allowable Concentrations for Selected Airborne Contaminants, Volume 1, National Academy Press, Washington, D.C.

NRC (1996) Spacecraft Maximum Allowable Concentrations for Selected Airborne Contaminants, Volume 2, National Academy Press, Washington, D.C.

NRC (1996) Spacecraft Maximum Allowable Concentrations for Selected Airborne Contaminants, Volume 3, National Academy Press, Washington, D.C.

NRC (2000) Spacecraft Maximum Allowable Concentrations for Selected Airborne Contaminants, Volume 4, National Academy Press, Washington, D.C.

NRC (2008) Spacecraft Maximum Allowable Concentrations for Selected Airborne Contaminants, Volume 5, National Academy Press, Washington, D.C.

Meyers VE, Garcia HD, James JT. Safe Human Exposure Limits for Airborne Linear Siloxanes during Spaceflight. Inhalation Toxicology 2013; 25(13):735-46.

NRC (2016) Refinements to the Methods for Developing Spacecraft Exposure Guidelines, National Academy Press, Washington, D.C

Romoser AA, Ryder VE, McCoy JT. Spacecraft Maximum Allowable Concentrations for Manganese Compounds in Mars Dust. Aerospace Medicine and Human Performance 2019; 90(8):709-719.

Ryder VE, Williams ES. Revisions to Limits for Propylene Glycol in Spacecraft Air. Aerospace Medicine and Human Performance. 2022; 93(5);467-469.

Ryder VE, Williams ES. Revisions to acute/off-nominal limits for benzene in spacecraft air. Aerospace Medicine and Human Performance 2023; 94(7):544–545.

Human Health and Performance Directorate	Spacecraft Maximum Allowable Concentrations for Airborne Contaminants	
	Document: JSC 20584	Rev D
	Date: 02/2026	Page: 18

Ryder VE, Yap DY. Spacecraft Maximum Allowable Concentrations for 1-Propanol. Aerospace Medicine and Human Performance 97(1): 60-63.

Ryder VE. Revisions to Limits for 2-Propanol in Spacecraft Air. Aerospace Medicine and Human Performance 2025 96(4): 360-362.

Ryder VE. Revisions to Spacecraft Maximum Allowable Concentrations for 2-Butanone. Aerospace Medicine and Human Performance 96(12): 1094-97.

Scully RR, Garcia H, McCoy JT, Ryder VE. Revisions to Limits for Methanol in the Air of Spacecraft. Aerospace Medicine and Human Performance 2019; 90(9):807-812.

Tapia CM, Langford SD, Ryder VE. Revisions to Limits for Toluene in Spacecraft Air. Aerospace Medicine and Human Performance 2024; 95(7):399-402.

Williams ES, Ryder VE. Spacecraft Maximum Allowable Concentrations for Ethyl Acetate. Aerospace Medicine and Human Performance. 2022; 93(5):467-469.

Williams ES, Tapia CM, Ryder VE. Revisions to Spacecraft Maximum Allowable Concentrations for Acetaldehyde. Aerospace Medicine and Human Performance 2025; 96(11): 1019-23.

Wimberly AA, Ryder VE. Exposure Limits for Hydrogen Sulfide in Spaceflight. NASA/ TM-20240000101, NASA Johnson Space Center, 2024.

Human Health and Performance Directorate	Spacecraft Maximum Allowable Concentrations for Airborne Contaminants	
	Document: JSC 20584	Rev D
	Date: 02/2026	Page: 19

APPENDIX A ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Human Health and Performance Directorate	Spacecraft Maximum Allowable Concentrations for Airborne Contaminants	
	Document: JSC 20584	Rev D
	Date: 02/2026	Page: 20

CASRN	Chemical Abstract Service Registry Number
C _n	Specific Concentration
CNS	Central Nervous System
DCD	Decreased Color Discrimination
EVA	Extra-Vehicular Activity
GI	Gastrointestinal
ISS	International Space Station
JSC	Johnson Space Center
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NRC	National Research Council
PNS	Peripheral Nervous System
ppm	Parts Per Million
RespSys	Respiratory System
SMACs	Spacecraft Maximum Allowable Concentrations
T _{grp}	Toxicity Index