Safe Working Procedure for the Use of Nitric Acid

Nitric acid is used in organic chemistry principally for nitration, and in analytical chemistry for sample preparation. The concentrated acid is also effective for clean metal residues from glassware.

Precaution

When mixed with organic materials, including acetone, concentrated nitric acid is likely to cause a violent explosion.

Any flasks, beakers or other containers of nitric acid must be clearly labelled.

After use, waste nitric acid must be neutralised before disposal (e.g. by cautious addition of sodium carbonate). Containers that contained the acid should be thoroughly washed with aqueous base and water before any further washing.

Nitric acid must not be mixed with organic materials except under controlled reaction conditions.

Any spilled nitric acid should be neutralised by addition of a solid base, such as sodium carbonate.

The following personal protective equipment (PPE) is to be used:

- Safety Glasses
- Labcoat
- Latex gloves
- Long pants
- Covered shoes

Nitric acid should always be used in a well ventilated fume cupboard.

Prepared by,

Approved by,