



Surfactants: Meeting Today's Market Needs

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Agenda

- Surfactants Overview
 - What is a surfactant?
 - Surfactant classes and functions
 - Key functional groups
- Question & Answer #1
- Key Market Trends
 - PEG/Dioxane Free
 - Sulfate Free
 - Low Irritation
 - All Natural
 - Low/No Preservative
- Question & Answer #2

Surfactants Overview

What is a Surfactant?

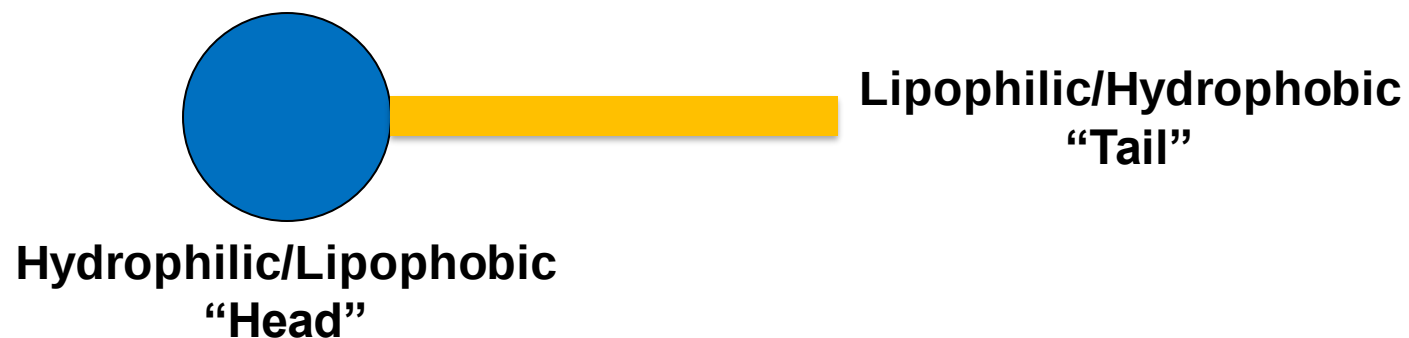
- Surfactant = Surface Active Agent
 - *“A chemical compound which when dissolved or dispersed in a liquid is preferentially adsorbed at an interface, lowering surface tension or interfacial tension.”*
- Surfactants:
 - Make oil and water mix
 - Make water wetter

What are Surfactants Good For?

- Wetting
- Foaming
- Dispersion
- Lubrication
- Detergency
- Paper sizing
- Solubilization
- Emulsification

How Surfactants Work

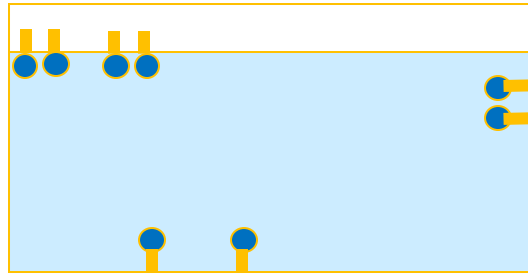
- “Tadpole” structure is key to functionality



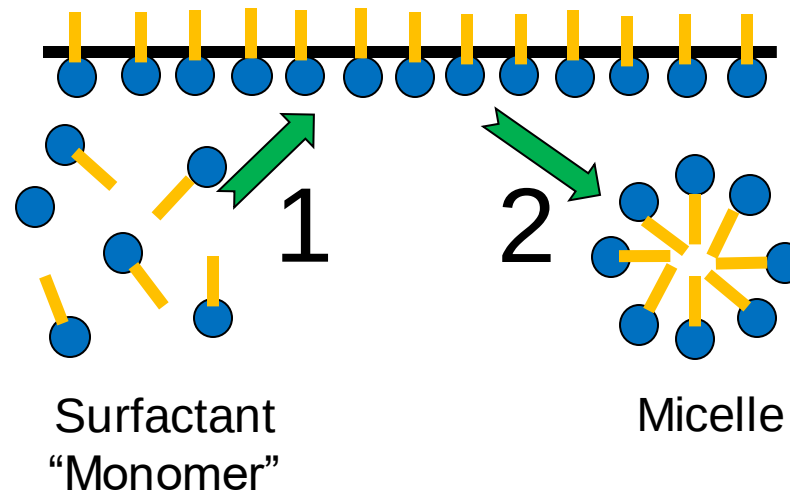
- Relative and absolute sizes of groups dictates function

Micelle Formation

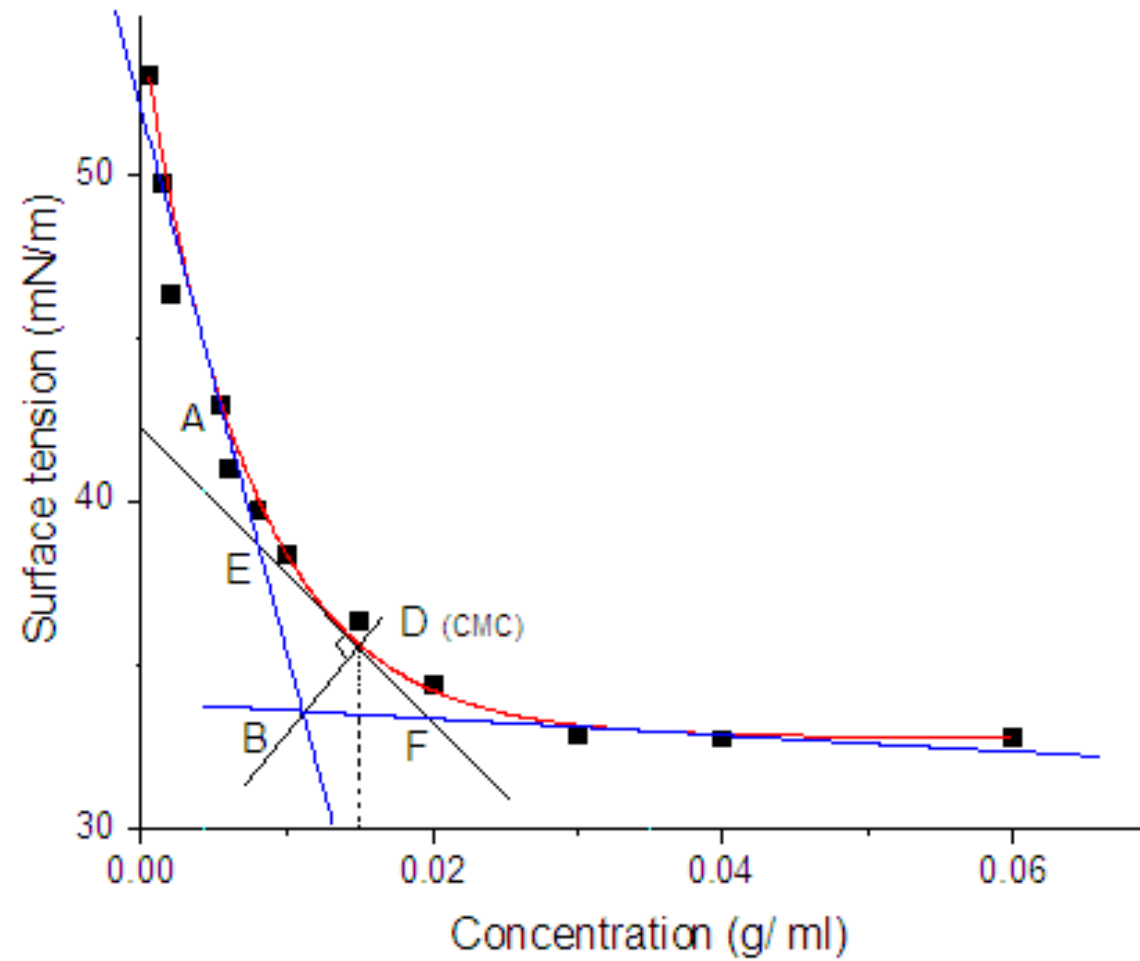
- At low concentrations, surfactants migrate to the edges of the water



- Once the surfaces are filled, surfactants assemble into spheres

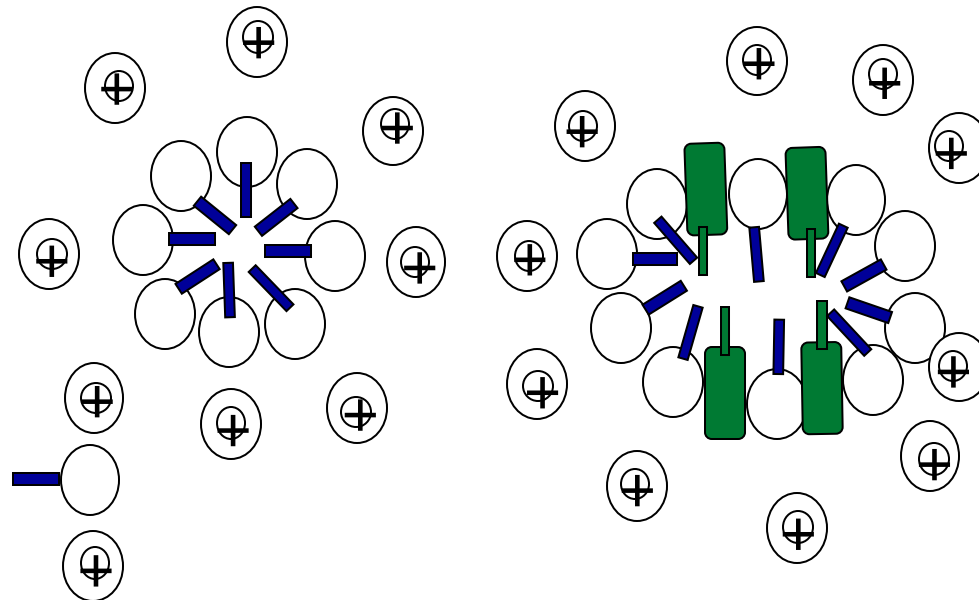


Critical Micelle Concentration



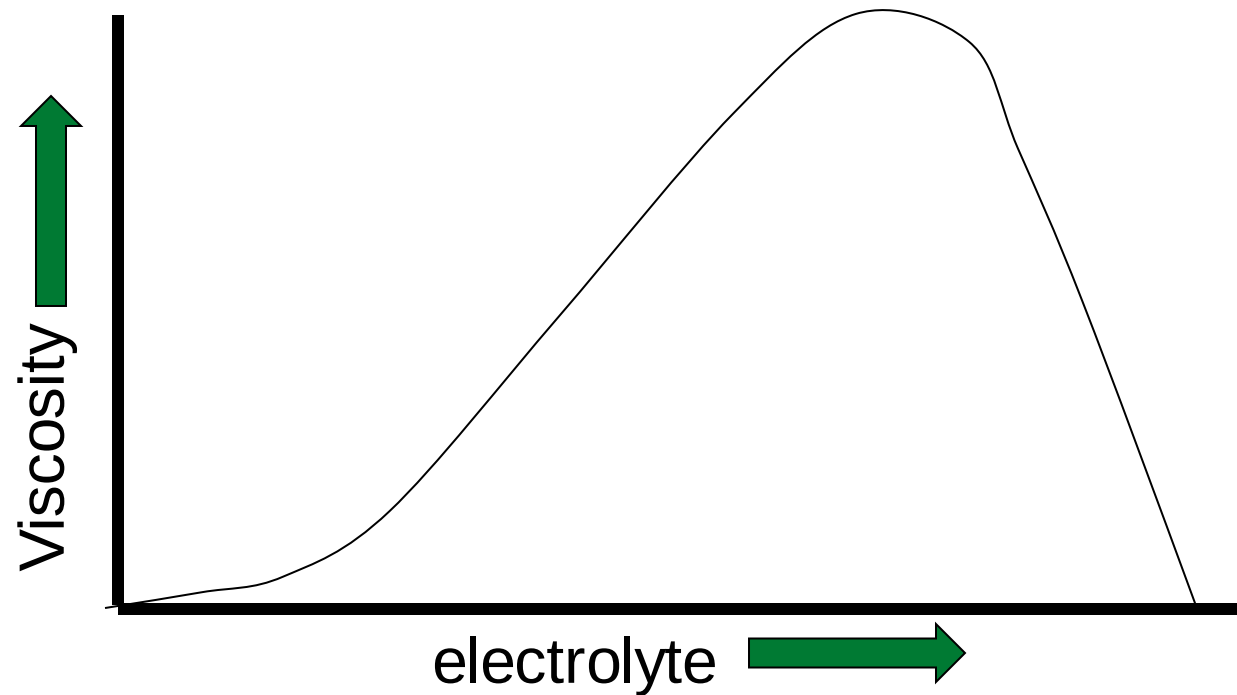
Surfactant Thickening

- Micelles can contain dozens or thousands of surfactant “monomers”
- As surfactant concentration increases, new micelle shapes can form
- Charged hydrophilic “heads” are kept apart by electrostatic repulsion
 - Salt reduces electrostatic repulsion
 - Nonionic surfactants (amides) increase packing



Surfactant Thickening

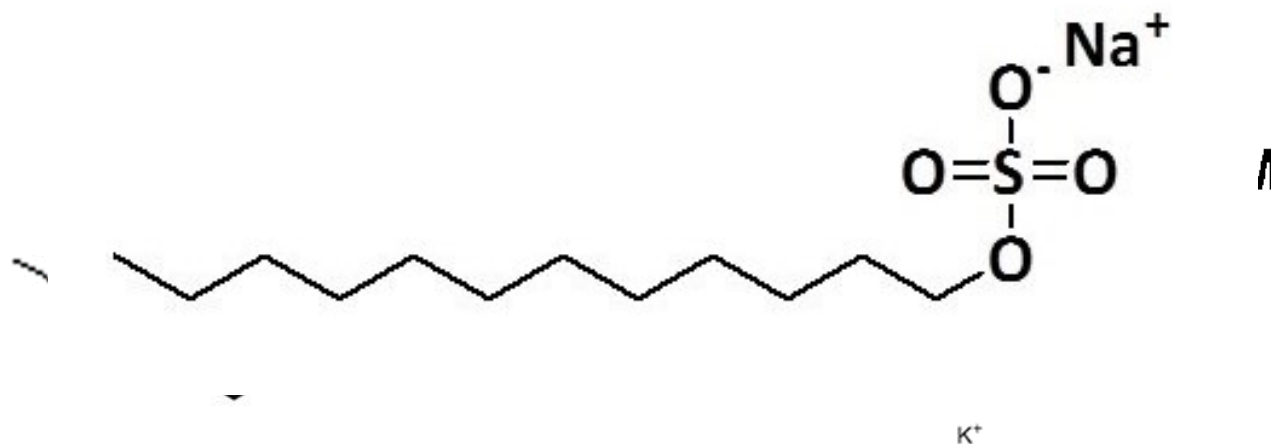
- Surfactant packing dictates micelle shape and size
- Micelles are always in flux
- Over-salting **reduces** viscosity



Types of Surfactants

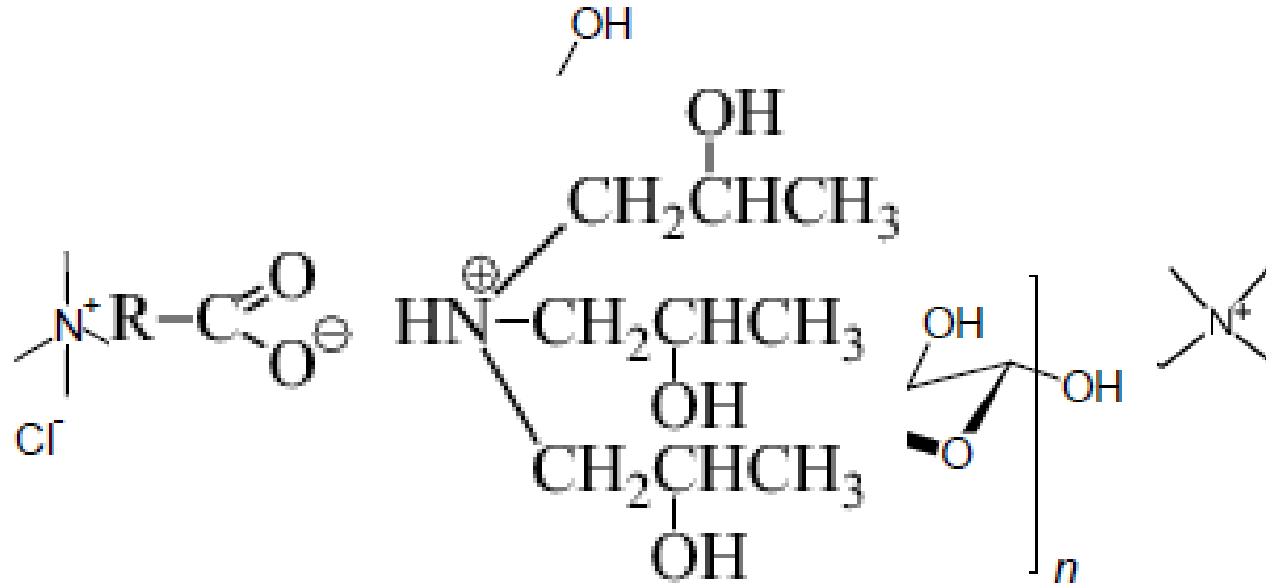
- Anionic
 - Most detergent surfactants
 - High foaming for personal care
 - Combine with amphoteric surfactants for optimum aesthetics

- Sulfate
- Sulfonate
- Isethionate
- Glutamate
- Sarcosinate



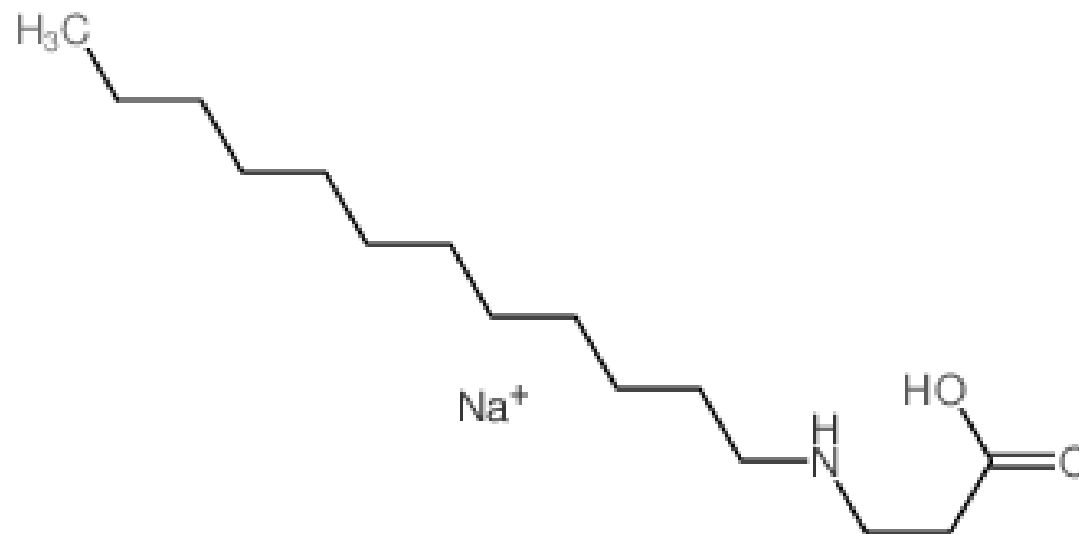
Types of Surfactants

- Cationic +
 - Most conditioning agents
 - Typically moderate or low foaming
 - Variable compatibility with anionic surfactants
 - Methyl Chloride
 - Methyl Sulfate
 - Hydroxypropyl
 - Amine salts
- 



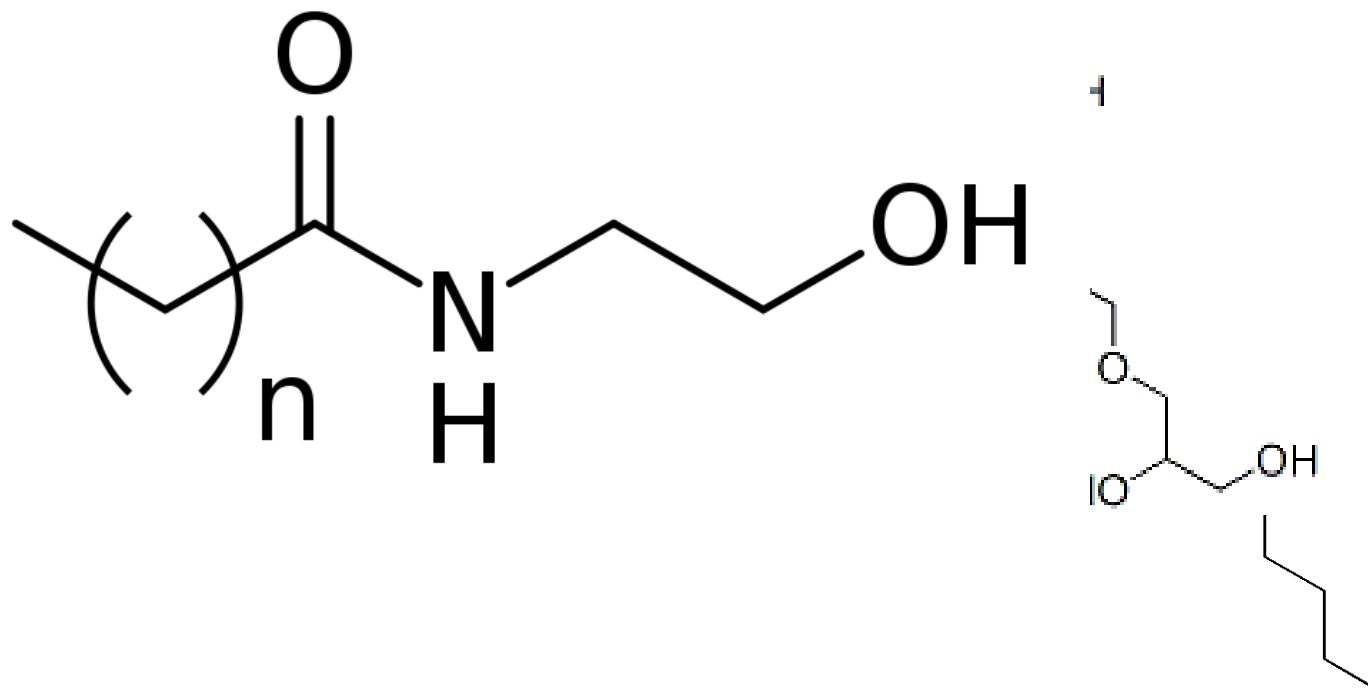
Types of Surfactants

- Amphoteric/Zwitterionic 
 - Viscosity, foam enhancement
 - Reduce irritation of anionic surfactants
 - Amphoteric vs zwitterionic
- Betaine
- Phosphobetaine
- Sultaine
- Amphoacetate
- Propionate



Types of Surfactants

- Nonionic 
 - Huge variety of chemistry
 - Include ethoxylates
 - Low irritation potential
- Alcohol ethoxylates
- PEG esters
- Polyglyceryl esters
- Alkanolamides
- Glucosides



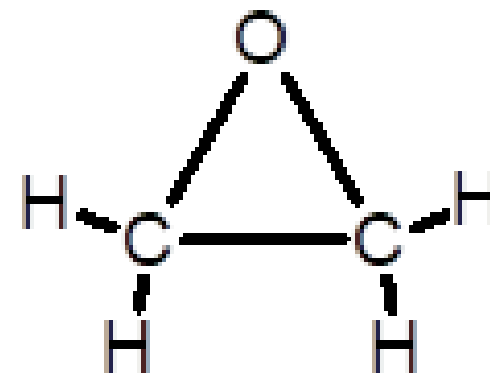
Question & Answer #1

Key Market Trends

Trend: PEG-Free, Dioxane-Free

What is ethoxylation?

- Addition of ethylene oxide (EO) to base molecule
- Most commonly performed on alcohols
 - Natural or synthetic
 - Fatty or short chain
- Production of glycols (ethylene glycol, polyethylene glycol)
- Production of ethanolamines
 - MEA, TEA, DEA
- Production of isethionic acid
- Typically produces new alcohol which can be further reacted
 - More EO
 - Sulfation
 - Carboxylation
 - Esterification.



Ethylene Oxide

Common Ethoxylates and Their Uses

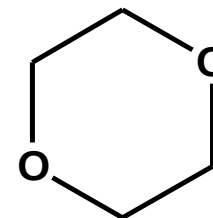
Ingredient	Function
Steareth-2, Steareth-20	Workhorse o/w Emulsifier Combo
Polysorbates	Workhorse o/w Emulsifiers
PEG-40 Hydrogenated Castor Oil	Fragrance Solubilization (End Use)
Alkylphenol Ethoxylates	Fragrance Solubilization (In Fragrance)
Sodium Laureth Sulfate	Lower Irritation Sulfate
Poloxamer	Zero Irritation Surfactant (Oral Care)
PEG-150 Distearate	Surfactant Thickening
PEG-120 Methyl Glucose Dioleate	Surfactant Thickening
PEG-7 Glyceryl Cocoate	Emollient/refatting (Rinse-Off)
PEG-75 Lanolin	Emollient/refatting (Rinse-Off)
Dimethicone PEG-7 Isostearate	Emollient/refatting (Leave-on)
PEG-5 Castor Oil	Emollient/refatting (Leave-on)

Dioxane Issues

For many ethoxylates,
a by-product is 1,4-Dioxane:



Ethylene Oxide : C_2H_4O



1,4-Dioxane : $C_4H_8O_2$

Dioxane Issues

- 1,4-Dioxane is a CMR (Carcinogenic, mutagenic and reprotoxic) substance
 - NTP “reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen”
 - IARC 2A “possibly carcinogenic to humans”
 - Known to be a carcinogen in animals
- Multiple organ toxicant (liver, kidneys, central nervous system)
- Toxic to aquatic plants and invertebrates
- Moderately persistent in the environment
- Regulated exposure limits in household and cosmetic products vary worldwide
- Many states have reporting requirements for children’s products (MN, ME, OR, VT, WA).

Dioxane Found in Cosmetics

Levels Reported	Number of Products	Percent of Total
0.0 – 1.0 ppm	111	65%
1.1 – 5.0 ppm	32	19%
5.1 – 10.0 ppm	14	8%
10.1 – 25.0 ppm	11	6%
>25.1 ppm	2 (35.2, 35.0 ppm)	1%

SCCS (Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety), Opinion on the Report of the ICCR Working Group: Considerations on Acceptable Trace Level of 1,4-Dioxane in Cosmetic Products, 15 December 2015, SCCS/1570/15

Dioxane Limits in Cosmetics

- Based on this information, the following limits have been proposed or enacted for cosmetics
- EU: SCCS opinion from 2015 sets safe limit at 10ppm
- ASEAN: 25ppm limit by June 19, 2020, 10ppm limit by June 19, 2023
- FDA: No guidance but use ICCR info
- California: Safe Cosmetics Act requires notification of products with Prop 65 contaminant
Recent efforts point toward 10ppm limit
- NY State: Cosmetics: 10ppm limit by Dec 31, 2022
Personal Care: 2ppm limit by Dec 31, 2022, 1ppm limit by Dec 31, 2023.
- Others??

Considerations for Replacement Selection

- Bio-renewable content
- Toxicity
 - Human
 - Environmental
- Brand positioning
- Ease of use
- Efficiency
- Cost.

Workhorse Emulsification – Small Molecules

- **Glyceryl Stearate with Stearic Acid**
 - Key benefit: 100% naturally derived
 - Key drawback: pH sensitive Stearic Acid
- **Polyglyceryl Esters**
 - Key benefit: Wide variety
 - Key drawback: Generally darker in color
- **Amino Acid Esters**
 - Key benefit: Can be all naturally derived
 - Key drawback: Pricey
- **Phosphate Esters**
 - Key benefit: High purity
 - Key drawback: Phosphate name.

Workhorse Emulsification – Hydrophobically Modified Polymers

- **Synthetic (acrylates)**
 - Key benefit: low cost
 - Key drawback: poor sustainability (currently)
- **Natural (cellulosics, crosspolymers)**
 - Key benefit: biobased content
 - Key drawback: cost
- **Inorganic (silicones)**
 - Key benefit: luxurious feel
 - Key drawback: negative perception.

Fragrance Solubilization

- Some emulsifiers can function as fragrance “solubilizers”
- Fragrance solubilization is really micro-emulsification
- Typically looking for high HLB emulsifiers
- **Polyglyceryl esters**
 - Key benefit: High biobased content
 - Key drawback: No “workhorse” product yet
- **Small molecules**
 - Key benefit: Ease of handling
 - Key drawback: Few choices
- **Surfactant combinations**
 - Key benefit: Optimized performance
 - Key drawback: Adds several ingredients.

Low Irritation Cleansers

- **Alkyl Glucosides**

- Key benefit: 100% biobased
- Key drawback: Difficult to formulate with

- **Alkyl Glucoside Derivatives**

- Key benefit: Expanded application range
- Key drawback: Few suppliers

- **Sulfosuccinates**

- Key benefit: Good foam possible
- Key drawback: Poor stability in acid/base

- **Amino Acid Surfactants**

- Key benefit: Excellent stability
- Key drawback: Costly.

Surfactant Thickening

- **Synthetic Polymers (HASE/HEUR)**
 - Key benefit: Highly customized performance
 - Key drawback: Mostly or purely petrochemical feedstocks
- **Alkanolamides**
 - Key benefit: Economical
 - Key drawback: Potential secondary amine issues
- **Amine Oxides**
 - Key benefit: Excellent performance
 - Key drawback: Not well characterized for personal care
- **Long-Chain Amphoteric**
 - Key benefit: Very effective viscosity boosters
 - Key drawback: Low active products or contain solvents.

Emolliency/Refatting

- **Glyceryl Oleate/Polyglyceryl Oleate**
 - Key benefit: 100% biobased
 - Key drawback: Easy to overwhelm system
- **Phosphate amphoteric**
 - Key benefit: Very high substantivity
 - Key drawback: Negative association with phosphate
- **Lecithin/Phospholipids**
 - Key benefit: All natural
 - Key drawback: Can be pricey
- **Long-Chain Amphoteric**
 - Key benefit: Economical
 - Key drawback: Lack of efficacy data

Trend: Sulfate-Free

Why Sulfate-Free?



**SULFATES,
YOUR
HAIR
& YOU**

Why sulfates are bad for your hair and how to find the best, healthiest shampoo for you



NO 

SULFATES
(SLES or SLS)

**WHAT ARE
SULFATES
AND
WHY ARE THEY
BAD FOR YOU?**



Gro-Fit.com

Going Sulfate-Free

- There are many challenges associated with moving from traditional sulfate surfactants to next generation products
 - Different impurities
 - Different foam properties
 - Different functional groups
 - Different packing capabilities
 - Different salt responsiveness
 - Different solubility parameters.

Considerations for Replacement Selection

- Bio-renewable content
- Toxicity
 - Human
 - Environmental
- Brand positioning
- Ease of use
- Efficiency
- Cost.

Common Sulfate Replacements

- Anionic 
 - High foaming for personal care
 - Combine with amphoteric surfactants for optimum aesthetics
- Watch for:
 - Acid pKa values
 - Instable groups
 - Impurities
 - Hard water tolerance
 - Size of head group.

Sulfate Free Examples - Sulfonate

- **Key Benefits**

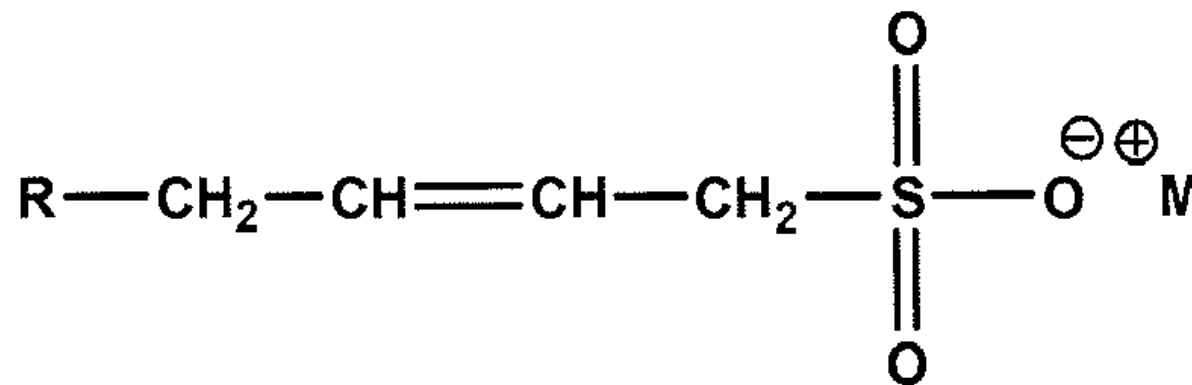
- Can be very low cost
- Extremely stable

- **Key Drawbacks**

- Petrochemical olefins dominate
- Slower viscosity response

- **Watchouts**

- Sultones should be kept as low as possible
- Start with increased amount of secondary surfactants
- Krafft point issues.



Sulfate Free Examples - Isethionate

- **Key Benefits**

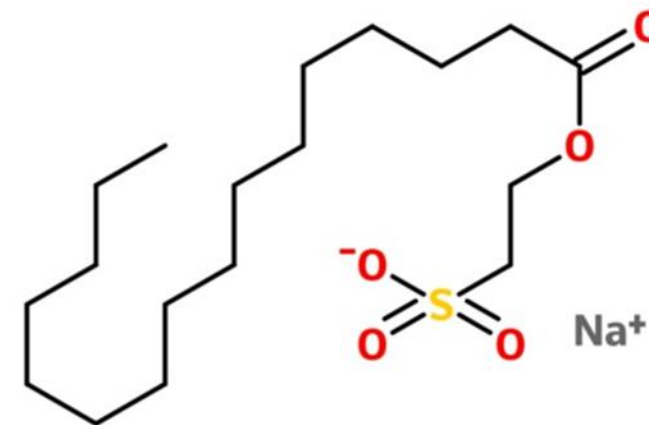
- Widely used
- Residual fatty acid offers added benefits

- **Key Drawbacks**

- Ester functionality can be instable
- Residual fatty acid offers added challenges

- **Watchouts**

- Try to keep pH near neutral
- Formulate with chelant
- Watch fatty acid content.



Sulfate Free Examples - Glutamate

- **Key Benefits**

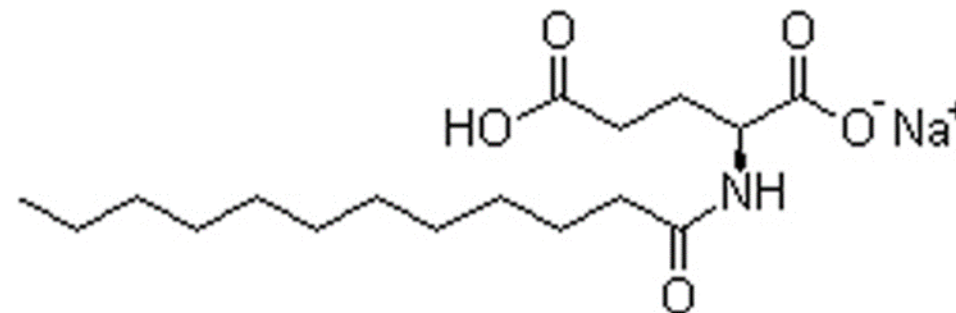
- High biobased content
- Low irritation

- **Key Drawbacks**

- Relatively costly
- Poor viscosity response

- **Watchouts**

- Multiple pKa values
- Combine with additional sulfate-free surfactants
- Check biobased content if important.



Sulfate Free Examples - Sarcosinate

- **Key Benefits**

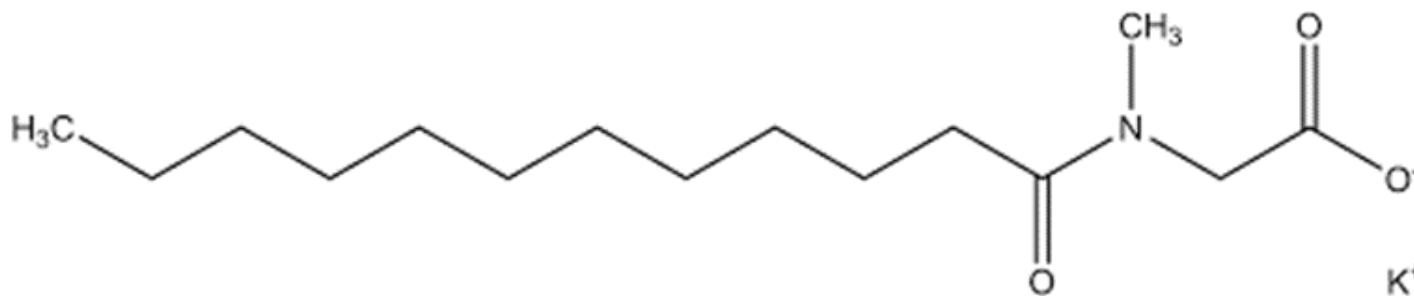
- Unique advantages in syndet bars
- Low in-use toxicity

- **Key Drawbacks**

- Partially petrochemical
- Poor viscosity response

- **Watchouts**

- Avoid using too much in gel cleansers
- Foaming can be enhanced by salt addition
- Synergistic surface tension reduction has been observed.



Sulfate Free Examples - Phosphate

- **Key Benefits**

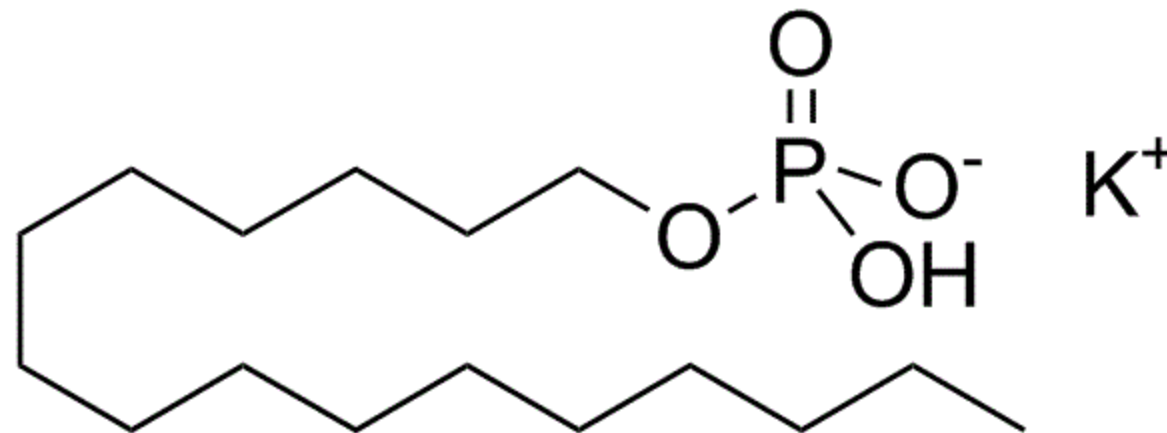
- Can be high biobased
- Low irritation

- **Key Drawbacks**

- Association with inorganic phosphates
- Typically need to be ethoxylated

- **Watchouts**

- Water hardness may impact solubility
- Can be supplied in acid or neutral forms
- Poor viscosity response.



Surfactant Thickening

- **Natural Polymers (Gums)**
 - Key benefit: Natural
 - Key drawback: Non-Newtonian flow characteristics
- **Synthetic Polymers (HASE/HEUR)**
 - Key benefit: Highly customized performance
 - Key drawback: Petrochemical feedstocks
- **Alkanolamides**
 - Key benefit: Economical
 - Key drawback: Potential secondary amine issues
- **Amine Oxides**
 - Key benefit: Excellent performance
 - Key drawback: Not well characterized for personal care
- **Long-Chain Amphoterics**
 - Key benefit: Very effective viscosity boosters
 - Key drawback: Low active products or contain solvents.



Trend: Low Irritation Cleansers

Demonstrating Reduced Irritation

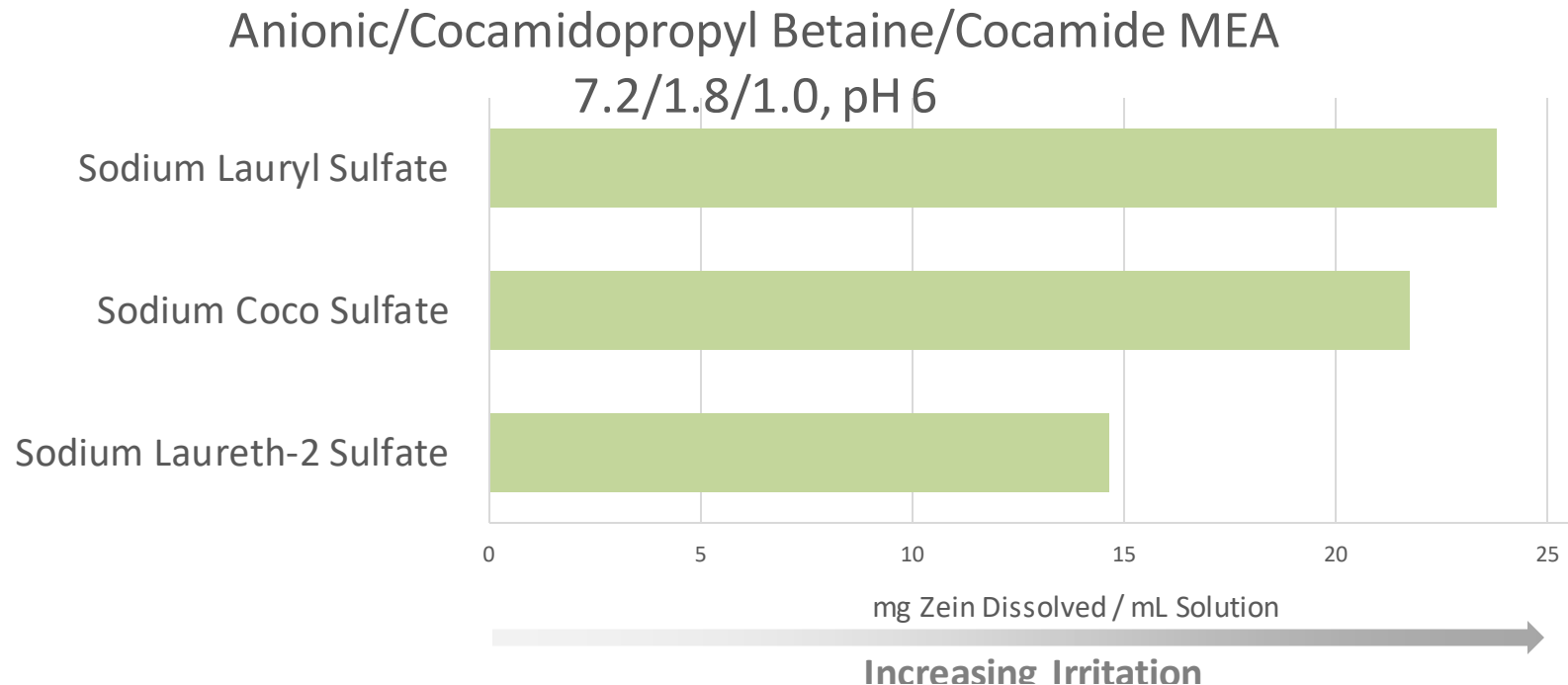
- Zein Test for In-vitro Irritation
 - Uses zein (corn) protein
 - Uses protein denaturization to assess irritation
 - Zein protein is insoluble in water
 - As surfactant denatures the protein, water solubility increases
 - Remaining insoluble protein is filtered, dried, and weighed
 - Results are presented here in mg Zein dissolved / mL product

- Model Formulation

Component	Concentration
Anionic surfactant or blend	7.2% solids
Amphoteric (Cocamidopropyl Betaine)	1.8% solids
Alkanolamide (Cocamide MEA)	1.0% solids
Water, citric acid	Qs to 100%, pH 6

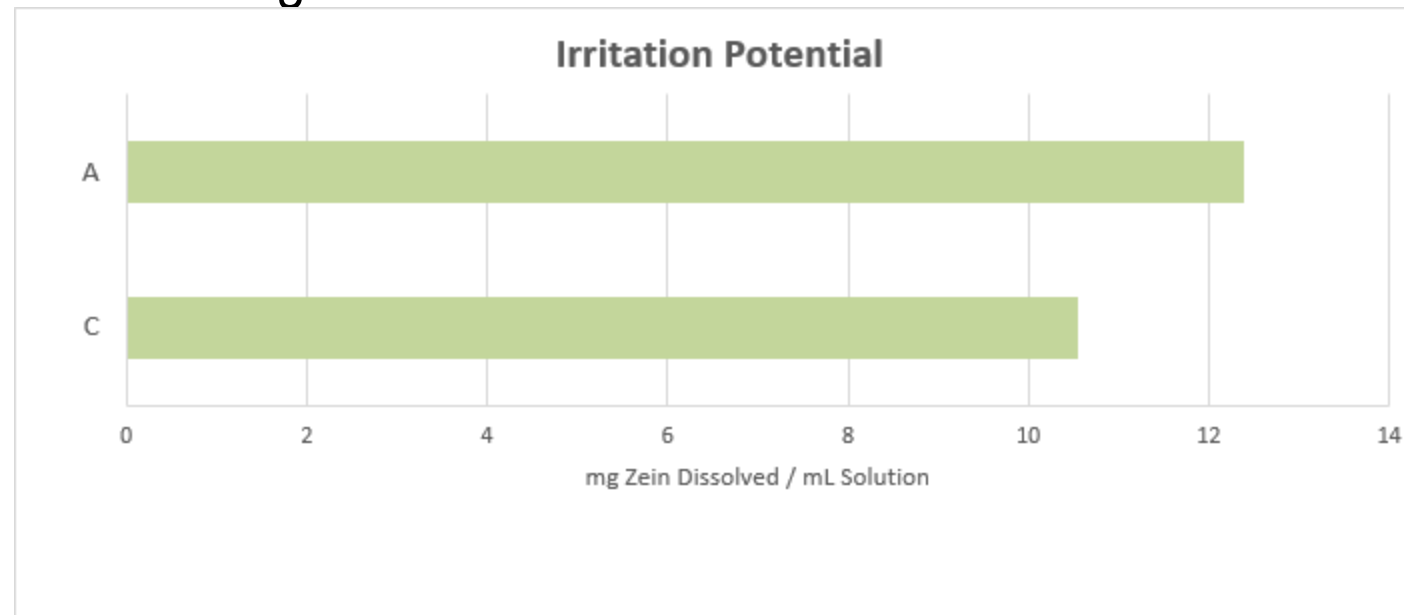
Reducing Irritation of Sulfates

- Even if “sulfate-free” is not a priority, NY State dioxane limits are coming:
 - 2ppm limit by Dec 31, 2022
 - 1ppm limit by Dec 31, 2023
 - These limits will be very hard to achieve, even with “low dioxane” ether sulfates
- SLES is preferred to SLS because of reduced irritation potential



Ingredient Selection Matters

- Coco-Sulfate based system
 - Sodium Coco-Sulfate, Coco-Glucoside, Cocamidopropyl Hydroxysultaine
 - At 11.6% solids measures 12.4 mg zein / mL solution (System A)
 - Betaine/amide system at 10% solids measures ~22 mg zein / mL solution
- Replaced 25% of surfactant solids with low irritation anionic (System C)
 - Reduced test result to 10.5 mg zein / mL solution



Trend: All Natural Cleansers

Considerations for Replacement Selection

- Bio-renewable content
- Toxicity
 - Human
 - Environmental
- Brand positioning
- Ease of use
- Efficiency
- Cost.

What's Natural

- No FDA definition for personal care
- Factors to consider
 - % Biobased
 - ISO 16128
 - Feedstocks
 - By-products
 - Consumer experience
 - Avoiding the “all-or-nothing” approach

Future of Natural Surfactants?

- Biosurfactants
- Microorganisms convert carbon sources to a variety of surfactant molecules
 - Glycolipids
 - Rhamnolipids
 - Sophorolipids
 - Sphingolipids
- Carbon can come from wide variety of sources
 - Traditional triglyceride oils, including waste oils
 - Sugars, starches, carbohydrates
 - Hydrocarbons
- Currently limited by low yield

Trend: Low/No Preservative Formulations

Dwindling Preservative Choices

- Common preservatives have come under fire for a variety of real or perceived risks
 - Formaldehyde donors: carcinogenicity
 - Parabens: carcinogenicity
 - Isothiazolinones: contact sensitization
 - Phenoxyethanol: irritation
 - Organic acids: irritation or sensitization
- Formulators are faced with a dwindling basket of “friendly” preservatives

Surfactants as Preservatives

- A variety of surfactants can function as preservatives
- They function best in “hurdle” systems with multiple chemistries
- Nonionic surfactants
 - Caprylyl Glycol
 - Glyceryl Laurate
- Amphoteric surfactants
 - Capryloyl Glycine
 - Cocamidopropyl PG-Dimonium Chloride Phosphate
- Cationic Surfactants
 - Benzalkonium Chloride
 - Polyquaternium-80
- Anionic surfactants
 - Citrate monoesters

Thank You!

Question & Answer#2

More questions?: dennis@colonialchem.com

Product info: <http://www.colonialchem.com>

