



**MATHESON  
TRI•GAS**

ask. . .The Gas Professionals™

# MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

Prepared to U.S. OSHA, CMA, ANSI and Canadian WHMIS Standards

## 1. PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION

**CHEMICAL NAME; CLASS:** ARGON/HYDROGEN GAS MIXTURE

**CHEMICAL FAMILY:** Inorganic Flammable Gas Mixture

**PRODUCT USE:** Welding Gas

### MANUFACTURER

MATHESON TRI-GAS, INC.

959 ROUTE 46 EAST  
PARSIPPANY, NJ 07054-0624  
USA

Phone: 973/257-1100

**EMERGENCY PHONE:**      **CHEMTREC (U.S. DOMESTIC):**      **1-800-424-9300**  
   **CHEMTREC INTERNATIONAL:**      **1-703-527-3887**  
   **CANUTEC (CANADA):**      **1-613-996-6666**

## 2. COMPOSITION and INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS

(10,000 ppm = 1%)

| CHEMICAL NAME | CAS #     | mole %   | EXPOSURE LIMITS IN AIR  |             |            |             |            |             |             |       |
|---------------|-----------|----------|---|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------|
|               |           |          | ACGIH-TLV   |             | OSHA-STEL  |             | NIOSH      |             |             | OTHER |
|               |           |          | TWA<br>ppm  | STEL<br>ppm | TWA<br>ppm | STEL<br>ppm | TWA<br>ppm | STEL<br>ppm | IDLH<br>ppm |       |
| Hydrogen      | 1333-74-0 | 2.93-99% | There are no specific exposure limits for Hydrogen. Hydrogen is a simple asphyxiant (SA). Oxygen levels should be maintained above 19.5%. |             |            |             |            |             |             |       |
| Argon         | 7440-37-1 | Balance  | There are no specific exposure limits for Argon. Oxygen levels should be maintained above 19.5%.  |             |            |             |            |             |             |       |

NOTE: All WHMIS required information is included. It is located in appropriate sections based on the ANSI Z400.1-1998 format. This product has been classified in accordance with the hazard criteria of the CPR and the MSDS contains all the information required by the CPR.

See Section 16 for Definitions of Terms Used.

## 3. HAZARD IDENTIFICATION

**EMERGENCY OVERVIEW:** This is a colorless, odorless, highly-flammable gas mixture. The main health hazard associated with releases of this gas mixture is asphyxiation by displacement of oxygen, as each component of this mixture is a simple asphyxiant. This gas mixture presents a serious fire hazard if accidentally released. Releases of this gas mixture will spread long distances; ignition or flash-back from a distance are possible. Flame or high temperature impinging on a localized area of the cylinder can cause cylinder to rupture violently or explosively. Provide adequate fire protection during emergency response.

### 3. HAZARD IDENTIFICATION

**SYMPTOMS OF OVER-EXPOSURE BY ROUTE OF EXPOSURE:** The most significant route of over-exposure for this product is by inhalation.

**INHALATION:** High concentrations of this gas mixture can cause an oxygen-deficient environment, especially if released in a poorly-ventilated area (e.g., an enclosed or confined space). Individuals breathing such an atmosphere may experience symptoms which include headaches, ringing in ears, dizziness, drowsiness, unconsciousness, nausea, vomiting, and depression of all the senses. Under some circumstances of overexposure, death may occur. The effects associated with various levels of oxygen are as follows:

**CONCENTRATION OF OXYGEN**

12-16% Oxygen:

10-14% Oxygen:

6-10% Oxygen:

Below 6%:

**OBSERVED EFFECT**

Breathing and pulse rate increase, muscular coordination slightly disturbed.

Emotional upset, abnormal fatigue, disturbed respiration.

Nausea, vomiting, collapse, or loss of consciousness.

Convulsive movements, possible respiratory collapse, and death.

**CONTACT WITH SKIN or EYES:** Contact with rapidly expanding gases (which are released under high pressure) may cause frostbite.

**SKIN ABSORPTION:** No component of this gas mixture presents a hazard of skin absorption.

**HEALTH EFFECTS OR RISKS FROM EXPOSURE:** Over-exposure to this gas mixture may cause the following health effects:

**ACUTE:** The most significant hazard associated with this gas mixture is inhalation of oxygen-deficient atmospheres. Symptoms of oxygen deficiency include ringing in ears, headaches, shortness of breath, wheezing, dizziness, indigestion, and nausea. At high concentrations, unconsciousness or death may occur.

**CHRONIC:** There are currently no known adverse health effects associated with chronic exposure to this gas mixture.

**TARGET ORGANS:** ACUTE: Respiratory system. CHRONIC: None.

**HMIS RATING:** HEALTH = 0 FLAMMABILITY = 4 REACTIVITY = 0

Hazard Scale: 0 = Minimal 1 = Slight 2 = Moderate 3 = Serious 4 = Severe

### 4. FIRST-AID MEASURES

**GENERAL INFORMATION:** Remove to fresh air, as quickly as possible. Only trained personnel should administer supplemental oxygen and/or cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, if necessary. **Seek medical attention immediately.**

**SKIN EXPOSURE:** If release of this gas mixture has resulted in frostbite, warm affected area slowly. Seek immediate medical attention.

**EYE EXPOSURE:** If release of this gas mixture has affected the eyes, seek immediate medical attention.

**MEDICAL CONDITIONS AGGRAVATED BY EXPOSURE:** Pre-existing respiratory conditions may be aggravated by overexposure to this gas mixture.

### 5. FIRE-FIGHTING MEASURES

**FLASH POINT:** Not applicable for a flammable gas.

**AUTOIGNITION TEMPERATURE:** Not determined for mixture.

For Hydrogen: 500-571°C (932-1059.8°F)

**FLAMMABLE LIMITS (in air by volume, %):** Not determined for mixture. The following are available for the flammable component:

**HYDROGEN**

Lower (LEL): 4.0%

Upper (UEL): 75.0%

## 5. FIRE-FIGHTING MEASURES (Continued)

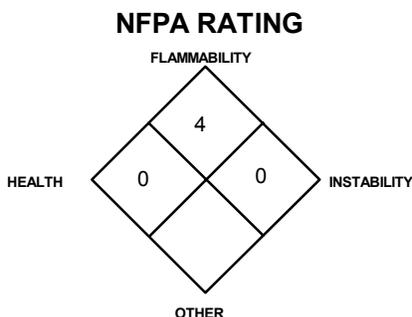
**FIRE EXTINGUISHING MATERIALS:** Extinguish fires of this gas mixture by shutting-off the source of gas. Use water spray to cool fire-exposed structures and equipment.

**UNUSUAL FIRE AND EXPLOSION HAZARD: DANGER!** This gas is extremely flammable and readily forms explosive mixtures with air over a very wide range. If released into a confined space, an extreme fire hazard exists.

**EXPLOSION SENSITIVITY TO MECHANICAL IMPACT:** Not sensitive.

**EXPLOSION SENSITIVITY TO STATIC DISCHARGE:** Static discharge may cause this gas mixture to ignite explosively.

**SPECIAL FIRE-FIGHTING PROCEDURES:** Evacuate all personnel from danger area. Immediately cool cylinders with water spray from maximum distance, taking care to NOT extinguish flames if source of gas has not been stopped. Stop the leak and flow of gas before extinguishing fire. If release is still occurring, explosive re-ignition may occur. In event that fire is extinguished before the leak is stopped, attempt to increase ventilation to area to prevent formation of explosive air/gas mixtures. Incipient fire responders should wear eye protection. Structural fire fighters must wear Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus and full protective equipment. When cool, move cylinders from fire area if this can be done without risk to firefighters. Other information for pre-planning can be found in the American Petroleum Institute Publications 2510 and 1510A, and the North American Emergency Response Guidebook (Guide Number 115).



**See Section 16 for Definition of Ratings**

## 6. ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES

**LEAK RESPONSE:** Evacuate immediate area. Uncontrolled releases should be responded to by trained personnel using pre-planned procedures. Eliminate any possible source of ignition and provide maximum explosion-proof ventilation. Proper protective equipment, including fire protection, should be used in the event of a significant release from a single cylinder. Use only non-sparking tools. Call CHEMTREC (1-800-424-9300) for emergency assistance. Or if in Canada, call CANUTEC (613-996-6666).

Attempt to close the main source valve prior to entering the area. If this does not stop the release (or if it is not possible to reach the valve), allow the gas to release in-place or remove it to a safe area and allow the gas to be released there. Protect personnel attempting to shut-off with water spray. Monitor the surrounding area for combustible gas levels and the level of Oxygen. The atmosphere must have not more than 10% of the LEL of each component gas (see Section 5, Fire-Fighting Measures) and at least 19.5 percent Oxygen before non-emergency personnel can be allowed in the area without Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus and fire protection.

## 7. HANDLING and USE

### WORK PRACTICES AND HYGIENE PRACTICES

Do not eat or drink while handling chemicals.

Be aware of all potential exposure symptoms; exposures to a fatal oxygen-deficient atmosphere could occur without any significant warning symptoms.

All work operations should be monitored in such a way that emergency personnel can be immediately contacted in the event of a release.

Workers who handle this gas mixture should wear protective clothing, as listed in Section 8 (Exposure Controls and Personal Protection).

If ventilation controls are not adequate to provide sufficient oxygen content, proper respiratory protection equipment should be provided and workers using such equipment should be carefully trained in its operation and limitations.

## 7. HANDLING and USE (Continued)

### WORK PRACTICES AND HYGIENE PRACTICES (continued):

Precautions must always be taken to prevent suck-back of foreign materials into the cylinder by using a check-valve, or vacuum break, since suck-back may cause dangerous pressure changes within the cylinder.

### STORAGE AND HANDLING PRACTICES:

Cylinders should be stored upright and be firmly secured to prevent falling or being knocked-over. Cylinders can be stored in the open, but in such cases, should be protected against extremes of weather and from the dampness of the ground to prevent rusting. Cylinders should be stored in dry, well-ventilated areas away from sources of heat or ignition. Do not allow the area where cylinders are stored to exceed 52°C (125°F).

Cylinders should be separated from oxygen cylinders, or other oxidizers, by a minimum distance of 20 ft., or by a barrier of non-combustible material at least 5 ft. high, having a fire-resistance rating of at least 0.5 hours. Isolate from other incompatible chemicals (refer to Section 10, Stability and Reactivity). Storage areas must meet National Electrical Codes for Class 1 Hazardous Areas. Post "No Smoking or Open Flames" signs in storage or use areas. Consider leak detection and alarm for storage and use areas. Have appropriate extinguishing equipment in storage area (i.e. sprinkler system, portable fire extinguishers).

**SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS FOR HANDLING GAS CYLINDERS:** Compressed gases can present significant safety hazards. The following rules are applicable to work situations in which cylinders are being used.

**Before Use:** Move cylinders with a suitable hand-truck. Do not drag, slide or roll cylinders. Do not drop cylinders or permit them to strike each other. Secure cylinders firmly. Leave the valve protection cap (where provided) in-place until cylinder is ready for use.

**During Use:** Use designated CGA fittings and other support equipment. Do not use adapters. Do not use oils or grease on gas-handling fittings or equipment. Immediately contact the supplier if there are any difficulties associated with operating the cylinder valve. Never insert an object (e.g wrench, screwdriver, pry bar, etc.) into valve cap openings. Doing so may damage the valve, causing a leak to occur. Use an adjustable strap wrench to remove over-tight or rusted caps. Never strike an arc, on a compressed gas cylinder or make a cylinder part of an electric circuit.

**After Use:** Close main cylinder valve. Replace valve protection cap. Close valve after each use and when empty. Mark empty cylinders "EMPTY".

**PROTECTIVE PRACTICES DURING MAINTENANCE OF CONTAMINATED EQUIPMENT:** Refer to current CGA Guidelines for information on protective practices during maintenance of contaminated equipment.

## 8. EXPOSURE CONTROLS - PERSONAL PROTECTION

**VENTILATION AND ENGINEERING CONTROLS:** Use with adequate, explosion-proof ventilation to ensure compliance with exposure limits described in Section 2 (Composition and Information on Ingredients). Local exhaust ventilation is preferred, because it prevents dispersion of this gas mixture into the work place by eliminating it at its source. If appropriate, install automatic monitoring equipment to detect the level of Oxygen and the presence of potentially explosive air-gas mixtures.

**RESPIRATORY PROTECTION:** Maintain the Oxygen level above 19.5% in the workplace. If necessary, use only respiratory protection authorized in the U.S. Federal OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard (29 CFR 1910.134), or equivalent U.S. State standards and Canadian CSA Standard Z94.4-93. Oxygen levels below 19.5% are considered IDLH by OSHA. In such atmospheres, use of a full-facepiece pressure/demand SCBA or a full facepiece, supplied air respirator with auxiliary self-contained air supply is required under OSHA's Respiratory Protection Standard (1910.134-1998).

**EYE PROTECTION:** Splash goggles or safety glasses. If necessary, refer to U.S. OSHA 29 CFR 1910.133, or appropriate Canadian Standards.

**HAND PROTECTION:** Wear mechanically-resistant gloves when handling cylinders containing this gas mixture. If necessary, refer to U.S. OSHA 29 CFR 1910.138, or appropriate Standards of Canada.

## 8. EXPOSURE CONTROLS - PERSONAL PROTECTION (Continued)

**BODY PROTECTION:** Use body protection appropriate for task. Transfer of large quantities under pressure may require protective equipment appropriate to the task. If a hazard of injury to the feet exists due to falling objects, rolling objects, where objects may pierce the soles of the feet or where employee's feet may be exposed to electrical hazards, foot protection should be used, as described in U.S. OSHA 29 CFR 1910.136.

## 9. PHYSICAL and CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

The following information is for Argon, the main component of this gas mixture:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>GAS DENSITY:</b> 0.103 lb/cu ft (1.650 kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | <b>EVAPORATION RATE (nBuAc = 1):</b> Not applicable.   |
| <b>SPECIFIC GRAVITY (air = 1):</b> 1.38                       | <b>FREEZING POINT:</b> -189.2°C (-308.9°F)             |
| <b>SOLUBILITY IN WATER:</b> 0.056                             | <b>BOILING POINT (@ 1 atmos.):</b> -185.9°C (-302.6°F) |
| <b>EXPANSION RATIO:</b> Not applicable.                       | <b>SPECIFIC VOLUME (ft<sup>3</sup>/lb):</b> 9.71       |
| <b>ODOR THRESHOLD:</b> Not applicable.                        | <b>MOLECULAR WEIGHT:</b> 39.95                         |
| <b>VAPOR PRESSURE (psia):</b> Not applicable.                 |  |
| <b>COEFFICIENT WATER/OIL DISTRIBUTION:</b> Not applicable.    |  |

The following information is for the Hydrogen component of this gas mixture:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>GAS DENSITY:</b> 0.00521 lb/cu ft (0.08342 kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | <b>EVAPORATION RATE (nBuAc = 1):</b> Not applicable.   |
| <b>SPECIFIC GRAVITY (air = 1):</b> 0.06860                        | <b>FREEZING POINT:</b> -259.2°C (-434.55°F)            |
| <b>SOLUBILITY IN WATER:</b> 0.019                                 | <b>BOILING POINT (@ 1 atmos.):</b> -252.8°C (-423.9°F) |
| <b>EXPANSION RATIO:</b> Not applicable.                           | <b>SPECIFIC VOLUME (ft<sup>3</sup>/lb):</b> 192.0      |
| <b>ODOR THRESHOLD:</b> Not applicable.                            | <b>MOLECULAR WEIGHT:</b> 2.016                         |
| <b>VAPOR PRESSURE (psia):</b> Not applicable.                     |  |
| <b>COEFFICIENT WATER/OIL DISTRIBUTION:</b> Not applicable.        |  |

The following information is pertinent to this product:

**APPEARANCE, ODOR AND COLOR:** This gas mixture is colorless and odorless.

**HOW TO DETECT THIS SUBSTANCE (warning properties):** There are no distinct warning properties of this gas mixture. In terms of leak detection, fittings and joints can be painted with a soap solution to detect leaks, which will be indicated by a bubble formation.

## 10. STABILITY and REACTIVITY

**STABILITY:** Stable at standard temperatures and pressures.

**DECOMPOSITION PRODUCTS:** When ignited in presence of oxygen, this gas mixture will burn, producing carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide.

**MATERIALS WITH WHICH SUBSTANCE IS INCOMPATIBLE:** The Hydrogen component is incompatible with strong oxidizers, halogen compounds (e.g. bromine, chlorine, fluorine), lithium, Argon trifluoride, oxygen difluoride. Finely divided platinum and some other metals will cause hydrogen to react explosively with oxygen in air. The Argon component is inert.

**HAZARDOUS POLYMERIZATION:** Will not occur.

**CONDITIONS TO AVOID:** Contact with incompatible material, heat, spark or flame. Cylinders exposed to high temperatures or direct flame can rupture or burst.

## 11. TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION

**TOXICITY DATA:** Argon and Hydrogen are simple asphyxiants (SA), which act to displace oxygen in the environment. No toxicity data are available.

## 11. TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION (Continued)

**SUSPECTED CANCER AGENT:** The components of this gas mixture are not found on the following lists: FEDERAL OSHA Z LIST, IARC, NTP, CAL/OSHA, and therefore is not considered to be, nor suspected to be a cancer-causing agent by these agencies.

**IRRITANCY OF PRODUCT:** This gas mixture is not irritating to contaminated tissue.

**SENSITIZATION TO THE PRODUCT:** The components of this product are not known to be skin or respiratory sensitizers.

**REPRODUCTIVE TOXICITY INFORMATION:** Listed below is information concerning the effects of the components of this gas mixture on the human reproductive system.

Mutagenicity: The components of this gas mixture are not reported to cause mutagenic effects in humans.

Embryotoxicity: The components of this gas mixture are not reported to cause embryotoxic effects in humans.

Teratogenicity: The components of this gas mixture are not reported to cause teratogenic effects in humans.

Reproductive Toxicity: The components of this gas mixture are not reported to cause adverse reproductive effects in humans.

**BIOLOGICAL EXPOSURE INDICES (BEIs):** Currently, there are no Biological Exposure Indices (BEIs) determined for the components of this gas mixture.

## 12. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

**ENVIRONMENTAL STABILITY:** This gas mixture will be dissipated rapidly in well-ventilated areas.

**EFFECT OF MATERIAL ON PLANTS or ANIMALS:** Any adverse effect on animals would be related to oxygen deficient environments.

**EFFECT OF CHEMICAL ON AQUATIC LIFE:** No an adverse effect from this gas mixture on aquatic life is expected.

## 13. DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS

**PREPARING WASTES FOR DISPOSAL:** Waste disposal must be in accordance with appropriate Federal, State, and local regulations. Return cylinders with any residual product to Matheson Tri-Gas. Do not dispose of locally.

## 14. TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

**THIS MATERIAL IS HAZARDOUS AS DEFINED BY 49 CFR 172.101 BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.**

**PROPER SHIPPING NAME:** Compressed gases, flammable, n.o.s.  
(Hydrogen, Argon)

**HAZARD CLASS NUMBER and DESCRIPTION:** 2.1 (Flammable Gas)

**UN IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:** UN 1954

**PACKING GROUP:** Not applicable.

**D.O.T HAZARD LABEL:** Flammable Gas

**NORTH AMERICAN EMERGENCY RESPONSE GUIDEBOOK NUMBER (2004):** 115

**MARINE POLLUTANT:** The components of this gas mixture are not classified by the DOT as a Marine Pollutants (as defined by 49 CFR 172.101, Appendix B).

**SPECIAL SHIPPING INFORMATION:** Cylinders should be transported in a secure position, in a well-ventilated vehicle. The transportation of compressed gas cylinders in automobiles or in closed-body vehicles present serious safety hazards and should be discouraged.

**NOTE:** Shipment of compressed gas cylinders which have not been filled with the owner's consent is a violation of Federal law (49 CFR, Part 173.301 (b)).

## 14. TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION (Continued)

**TRANSPORT CANADA TRANSPORTATION OF DANGEROUS GOODS REGULATIONS:** This gas mixture is considered as dangerous goods, per regulations of Transport Canada.

**PROPER SHIPPING NAME:** Compressed gases, flammable, n.o.s. (Hydrogen, Argon)  
**HAZARD CLASS NUMBER and DESCRIPTION:** 2.1 (Flammable Gas)  
**UN IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:** UN 1954  
**PACKING GROUP:** Not Applicable  
**HAZARD LABEL:** Class 2.1 (Flammable Gas)  
**SPECIAL PROVISIONS:** None  
**EXPLOSIVE LIMIT AND LIMITED QUANTITY INDEX:** 0.125  
**ERAP INDEX:** 3000  
**PASSENGER CARRYING SHIP INDEX:** Forbidden  
**PASSENGER CARRYING ROAD VEHICLE OR PASSENGER CARRYING RAILWAY VEHICLE INDEX:** Forbidden

**NORTH AMERICAN EMERGENCY RESPONSE GUIDEBOOK NUMBER (2004):** 115

**NOTE:** Shipment of compressed gas cylinders via Public Passenger Road Vehicle is a violation of Canadian law (Transport Canada Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act, 1992).

## 15. REGULATORY INFORMATION

### ADDITIONAL U.S. REGULATIONS:

**U.S. SARA REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:** No component of this product is subject to the reporting requirements of Sections 302, 304 and 313 of Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act.

**U.S. SARA THRESHOLD PLANNING QUANTITY:** There are no specific Threshold Planning Quantities for the components of this product. The default Federal MSDS submission and inventory requirement filing threshold of 10,000 lbs (4,540 kg) therefore applies, per 40 CFR 370.20.

**U.S. SARA HAZARD CATEGORIES (SECTION 311/312, 40 CFR 370-21):** ACUTE: No; CHRONIC: No; FIRE: Yes; REACTIVE: No; SUDDEN RELEASE: Yes

**U.S. TSCA INVENTORY STATUS:** Components of this product are listed on the TSCA Inventory.

**U.S. CERCLA REPORTABLE QUANTITY (RQ):** Not applicable.

**OTHER U.S. FEDERAL REGULATIONS:** Hydrogen is subject to the reporting requirements of Section 112(r) of the Clean Air Act. The threshold quantity for this gas is 10,000 lbs (4,540 kg). Hydrogen is listed as Regulated Substances in quantities of 10,000 lbs (4,540 kg) or greater, per 40 CFR, Part 68 of the Risk Management for Chemical Accidental Release. Any process that involves a flammable gas on-site, in one location, in quantities of 10,000 lbs (4,540 kg) or greater has requirements under the Process Safety Management of Highly Hazardous Chemicals (29 CFR 1910.119), unless the gas is used as a fuel.

**U.S. STATE REGULATORY INFORMATION:** Components of this product are covered under some

**CALIFORNIA SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT (PROPOSITION 65):** No component of this product is on the California Proposition 65 lists.

**LABELING:** Cylinders of this gas mixture should be labeled for precautionary information per the guidelines of the CGA. Refer to the CGA for further information.

### ADDITIONAL CANADIAN REGULATIONS:

**CANADIAN DSL/NDL INVENTORY STATUS:** The components of this product are listed on the DSL Inventory.

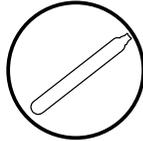
**OTHER CANADIAN REGULATIONS:** Not applicable.

**CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT (CEPA) PRIORITIES SUBSTANCES LISTS:** The components of this product are not on the CEPA Priorities Substances Lists.

## 15. REGULATORY INFORMATION (Continued)

### ADDITIONAL U.S. REGULATIONS (continued):

**CANADIAN WHMIS SYMBOLS:** This gas mixture would be categorized as a Controlled Product, Hazard Classes: **A** (compressed gas) and **F** (flammable). The following symbol is required for WHMIS compliance for this gas mixture.



## 16. OTHER INFORMATION

**CREATION DATE:** November 29, 2001

**REVISION DATE:** April 19, 2005

**REVISION HISTORY:** Review and up-date of entire MSDS, April 2005.

**MIXTURES:** When two or more gases or liquefied gases are mixed, their hazardous properties may combine to create additional, unexpected hazards. Obtain and evaluate the safety information for each component before you use the mixture. Consult an Industrial Hygienist or other trained person when you make your safety evaluation of the end product. Remember, gases and liquids have properties which can cause serious injury or death.

Further information can be found in the following pamphlets published by: Compressed Gas Association Inc. (CGA), 421 Walney Road, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chantilly, VA 20151. Telephone: (703) 788-2700, Fax: (703) 961-1831.

*"Safe Handling of Compressed Gases in Containers" (P-1, 1999)*

*"Safe Handling and Storage of Compressed Gases" (AV-1, 1999)*

*"Handbook of Compressed Gases" (1992)*

**PREPARED BY:**

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619/670-0609

### DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

A large number of abbreviations and acronyms appear on a MSDS. Some of these which are commonly used include the following:

**CAS #:** This is the Chemical Abstract Service Number that uniquely identifies each constituent.

**EXPOSURE LIMITS IN AIR:**

**CEILING LEVEL:** The concentration that shall not be exceeded during any part of the working exposure.

**DFG MAK Pregnancy Risk Group Classification:** **Group A:** A risk of damage to the developing embryo or fetus has been unequivocally demonstrated. Exposure of pregnant women can lead to damage of the developing organism, even when MAK and BAT (Biological Tolerance Value for Working Materials) values are observed. **Group B:** Currently available information indicates a risk of damage to the developing embryo or fetus must be considered to be probable. Damage to the developing organism cannot be excluded when pregnant women are exposed, even when MAK and BAT values are observed. **Group C:** There is no reason to fear a risk of damage to the developing embryo or fetus when MAK and BAT values are observed. **Group D:** Classification in one of the groups A-C is not yet possible because, although the data available may indicate a trend, they are not sufficient for final evaluation.

**LOQ:** Limit of Quantitation.

**MAK:** Federal Republic of Germany Maximum Concentration Values in the workplace.

**NE:** Not Established. When no exposure guidelines are established, an entry of NE is made for reference.

**NIC:** Notice of Intended Change.

**NIOSH CEILING:** The exposure that shall not be exceeded during any part of the workday. If instantaneous monitoring is not feasible, the ceiling shall be assumed as a 15-minute TWA exposure (unless otherwise specified) that shall not be exceeded at any time during a workday.

**NIOSH RELs:** NIOSH's Recommended Exposure Limits.

**EXPOSURE LIMITS IN AIR (continued):**

**PEL-Permissible Exposure Limit:** OSHA's Permissible Exposure Limits. This exposure value means exactly the same as a TLV, except that it is enforceable by OSHA.

The OSHA Permissible Exposure Limits are based in the 1989 PELs and the June, 1993 Air Contaminants Rule (Federal Register: 58: 35338-35351 and 58: 40191). Both the current PELs and the vacated PELs are indicated. The phrase, "Vacated 1989 PEL," is placed next to the PEL that was vacated by Court Order.

**SKIN:** Used when there is a danger of cutaneous absorption.

**STEL-Short Term Exposure Limit:** Short Term Exposure Limit, usually a 15-minute time-weighted average (TWA) exposure that should not be exceeded at any time during a workday, even if the 8-hr TWA is within the TLV-TWA, PEL-TWA or REL-TWA.

**TLV-Threshold Limit Value:** An airborne concentration of a substance that represents conditions under which it is generally believed that nearly all workers may be repeatedly exposed without adverse effect. The duration must be considered, including the 8-hour.

**TWA-Time Weighted Average:** Time Weighted Average exposure concentration for a conventional 8-hr (TLV, PEL) or up to a 10-hr (REL) workday and a 40-hr workweek.

**IDLH-Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health:** This level represents a concentration from which one can escape within 30-minutes without suffering escape-preventing or permanent injury.

**HAZARDOUS MATERIALS IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM**

**HAZARD RATINGS:** This rating system was developed by the National Paint and Coating Association and has been adopted by industry to identify the degree of chemical hazards.

## 16. OTHER INFORMATION (Continued)

### DEFINITIONS OF TERMS (Continued)

#### HAZARDOUS MATERIALS IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM HAZARD RATINGS (continued):

##### HEALTH HAZARD:

**0 (Minimal Hazard):** No significant health risk, irritation of skin or eyes not anticipated. *Skin Irritation:* Essentially non-irritating. PII or Draize = "0". *Eye Irritation:* Essentially non-irritating, or minimal effects which clear in < 24 hours [e.g. mechanical irritation]. Draize = "0". *Oral Toxicity LD<sub>50</sub> Rat:* < 5000 mg/kg. *Dermal Toxicity LD<sub>50</sub>Rat or Rabbit:* < 2000 mg/kg. *Inhalation Toxicity 4-hrs LC<sub>50</sub> Rat:* < 20 mg/L.; **1 (Slight Hazard:** Minor reversible Injury may occur; slightly or mildly irritating. *Skin Irritation:* Slightly or mildly irritating. *Eye Irritation:* Slightly or mildly irritating. *Oral Toxicity LD<sub>50</sub> Rat:* > 500-5000 mg/kg. *Dermal Toxicity LD<sub>50</sub>Rat or Rabbit:* > 1000-2000 mg/kg. *Inhalation Toxicity LC<sub>50</sub> 4-hrs Rat:* > 2-20 mg/L.; **2 (Moderate Hazard:** Temporary or transitory injury may occur. *Skin Irritation:* Moderately irritating; primary irritant; sensitizer. PII or Draize > 0, < 5. *Eye Irritation:* Moderately to severely irritating and/or corrosive; reversible corneal opacity; corneal involvement or irritation clearing in 8-21 days. Draize > 0, ≤ 25. *Oral Toxicity LD<sub>50</sub> Rat:* > 50-500 mg/kg. *Dermal Toxicity LD<sub>50</sub>Rat or Rabbit:* > 200-1000 mg/kg. *Inhalation Toxicity LC<sub>50</sub> 4-hrs Rat:* > 0.5-2 mg/L.); **3 (Serious Hazard:** Major injury likely unless prompt action is taken and medical treatment is given; high level of toxicity; corrosive. *Skin Irritation:* Severely irritating and/or corrosive; may destroy dermal tissue, cause skin burns, dermal necrosis. PII or Draize > 5-8 with destruction of tissue. *Eye Irritation:* Corrosive, irreversible destruction of ocular tissue; corneal involvement or irritation persisting for more than 21 days. Draize > 80 with effects irreversible in 21 days. *Oral Toxicity LD<sub>50</sub> Rat:* > 1-50 mg/kg. *Dermal Toxicity LD<sub>50</sub>Rat or Rabbit:* > 20-200 mg/kg. *Inhalation Toxicity LC<sub>50</sub> 4-hrs Rat:* > 0.05-0.5 mg/L.); **4 (Severe Hazard:** Life-threatening; major or permanent damage may result from single or repeated exposure. *Skin Irritation:* Not appropriate. Do not rate as a "4", based on skin irritation alone. *Eye Irritation:* Not appropriate. Do not rate as a "4", based on eye irritation alone. *Oral Toxicity LD<sub>50</sub> Rat:* ≤ 1 mg/kg. *Dermal Toxicity LD<sub>50</sub>Rat or Rabbit:* ≤ 20 mg/kg. *Inhalation Toxicity LC<sub>50</sub> 4-hrs Rat:* ≤ 0.05 mg/L.).

##### FLAMMABILITY HAZARD:

**0 (Minimal Hazard-**Materials that will not burn in air when exposure to a temperature of 815.5°C [1500°F] for a period of 5 minutes.); **1 (Slight Hazard-**Materials that must be pre-heated before ignition can occur. Material require considerable pre-heating, under all ambient temperature conditions before ignition and combustion can occur, Including: Materials that will burn in air when exposed to a temperature of 815.5°C (1500°F) for a period of 5 minutes or less; Liquids, solids and semisolids having a flash point at or above 93.3°C [200°F] (e.g. OSHA Class IIIB, or; Most ordinary combustible materials [e.g. wood, paper, etc.]; **2 (Moderate Hazard-**Materials that must be moderately heated or exposed to relatively high ambient temperatures before ignition can occur. Materials in this degree would not, under normal conditions, form hazardous atmospheres in air, but under high ambient temperatures or moderate heating may release vapor in sufficient quantities to produce hazardous atmospheres in air, Including: Liquids having a flash-point at or above 37.8°C [100°F]; Solid materials in the form of course dusts that may burn rapidly but that generally do not form explosive atmospheres; Solid materials in a fibrous or shredded form that may burn rapidly and create flash fire hazards (e.g. cotton, sisal, hemp; Solids and semisolids that readily give off flammable vapors.); **3 (Serious Hazard-** Liquids and solids that can be ignited under almost all ambient temperature conditions. Materials in this degree produce hazardous atmospheres with air under almost all ambient temperatures, or, unaffected by ambient temperature, are readily ignited under almost all conditions, including: Liquids having a flash point below 22.8°C [73°F] and having a boiling point at or above 38°C [100°F] and below 37.8°C [100°F] [e.g. OSHA Class IB and IC];

#### HAZARDOUS MATERIALS IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM HAZARD RATINGS (continued):

##### FLAMMABILITY HAZARD (continued):

**3 (continued):** Materials that on account of their physical form or environmental conditions can form explosive mixtures with air and are readily dispersed in air [e.g., dusts of combustible solids, mists or droplets of flammable liquids]; Materials that burn extremely rapidly, usually by reason of self-contained oxygen [e.g. dry nitrocellulose and many organic peroxides]; **4 (Severe Hazard-**Materials that will rapidly or completely vaporize at atmospheric pressure and normal ambient temperature or that are readily dispersed in air, and which will burn readily, including: Flammable gases; Flammable cryogenic materials; Any liquid or gaseous material that is liquid while under pressure and has a flash point below 22.8°C [73°F] and a boiling point below 37.8°C [100°F] [e.g. OSHA Class IA; Material that ignite spontaneously when exposed to air at a temperature of 54.4°C [130°F] or below [e.g. pyrophoric].

##### PHYSICAL HAZARD:

**0 (Water Reactivity:** Materials that do not react with water. *Organic Peroxides:* Materials that are normally stable, even under fire conditions and will not react with water. *Explosives:* Substances that are Non-Explosive. *Unstable Compressed Gases:* No Rating. *Pyrophorics:* No Rating. *Oxidizers:* No "0" rating allowed. *Unstable Reactives:* Substances that will not polymerize, decompose, condense or self-react.); **1 (Water Reactivity:** Materials that change or decompose upon exposure to moisture. *Organic Peroxides:* Materials that are normally stable, but can become unstable at high temperatures and pressures. These materials may react with water, but will not release energy. *Explosives:* Division 1.5 & 1.6 substances that are very insensitive explosives or that do not have a mass explosion hazard. *Compressed Gases:* Pressure below OSHA definition. *Pyrophorics:* No Rating. *Oxidizers:* Packaging Group III; *Solids:* any material that in either concentration tested, exhibits a mean burning time less than or equal to the mean burning time of a 3:7 potassium bromate/cellulose mixture and the criteria for Packing Group I and II are not met. *Liquids:* any material that exhibits a mean pressure rise time less than or equal to the pressure rise time of a 1:1 nitric acid (65%)/cellulose mixture and the criteria for Packing Group I and II are not met. *Unstable Reactives:* Substances that may decompose, condense or self-react, but only under conditions of high temperature and/or pressure and have little or no potential to cause significant heat generation or explosive hazard. Substances that readily undergo hazardous polymerization in the absence of inhibitors.); **2 (Water Reactivity:** Materials that may react violently with water. *Organic Peroxides:* Materials that, in themselves, are normally unstable and will readily undergo violent chemical change, but will not detonate. These materials may also react violently with water. *Explosives:* Division 1.4 – Explosive substances where the explosive effect are largely confined to the package and no projection of fragments of appreciable size or range are expected. An external fire must not cause virtually instantaneous explosion of almost the entire contents of the package. *Compressed Gases:* Pressurized and meet OSHA definition but < 514.7 psi absolute at 21.1°C (70°F) [500 psig]. *Pyrophorics:* No Rating. *Oxidizers:* Packaging Group II *Solids:* any material that, either in concentration tested, exhibits a mean burning time of less than or equal to the mean burning time of a 2:3 potassium bromate/cellulose mixture and the criteria for Packing Group I are not met. *Liquids:* any material that exhibits a mean pressure rise time less than or equal to the pressure rise of a 1:1 aqueous sodium chlorate solution (40%)/cellulose mixture and the criteria for Packing Group I are not met. *Unstable Reactives:* Substances that may polymerize, decompose, condense, or self-react at ambient temperature and/or pressure, but have a low potential for significant heat generation or explosion. Substances that readily form peroxides upon exposure to air or oxygen at room temperature);

## 16. OTHER INFORMATION (Continued)

### DEFINITIONS OF TERMS (Continued)

#### HAZARDOUS MATERIALS IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

##### HAZARD RATINGS (continued):

###### PHYSICAL HAZARD (continued):

**3 (Water Reactivity):** Materials that may form explosive reactions with water. **Organic Peroxides:** Materials that are capable of detonation or explosive reaction, but require a strong initiating source, or must be heated under confinement before initiation; or materials that react explosively with water. **Explosives:** Division 1.2 – Explosive substances that have a fire hazard and either a minor blast hazard or a minor projection hazard or both, but do not have a mass explosion hazard. **Compressed Gases:** Pressure  $\geq$  514.7 psi absolute at 21.1°C (70°F) [500 psig]. **Pyrophorics:** No Rating. **Oxidizers:** Packing Group I **Solids:** any material that, in either concentration tested, exhibits a mean burning time less than the mean burning time of a 3.:2 potassium bromate/cellulose mixture. **Liquids:** Any material that spontaneously ignites when mixed with cellulose in a 1:1 ratio, or which exhibits a mean pressure rise time less than the pressure rise time of a 1:1 perchloric acid (50%)/cellulose mixture. **Unstable Reactives:** Substances that may polymerize, decompose, condense or self-react at ambient temperature and/or pressure and have a moderate potential to cause significant heat generation or explosion.); **4 (Water Reactivity):** Materials that react explosively with water without requiring heat or confinement. **Organic Peroxides:** Materials that are readily capable of detonation or explosive decomposition at normal temperature and pressures. **Explosives:** Division 1.1 & 1.2-explosive substances that have a mass explosion hazard or have a projection hazard. A mass explosion is one that affects almost the entire load instantaneously. **Compressed Gases:** No Rating. **Pyrophorics:** Add to the definition of Flammability "4". **Oxidizers:** No "4" rating. **Unstable Reactives:** Substances that may polymerize, decompose, condense or self-react at ambient temperature and/or pressure and have a high potential to cause significant heat generation or explosion.).

##### NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION HAZARD RATINGS:

**HEALTH HAZARD:** **0** (material that on exposure under fire conditions would offer no hazard beyond that of ordinary combustible materials); **1** (materials that on exposure under fire conditions could cause irritation or minor residual injury); **2** (materials that on intense or continued exposure under fire conditions could cause temporary incapacitation or possible residual injury); **3** (materials that can on short exposure could cause serious temporary or residual injury); **4** (materials that under very short exposure could cause death or major residual injury).

**FLAMMABILITY HAZARD:** **0** Materials that will not burn under typical fire conditions, including intrinsically noncombustible materials such as concrete, stone, and sand. **1** Materials that must be preheated before ignition can occur. Materials in this degree require considerable preheating, under all ambient temperature conditions, before ignition and combustion can occur. **2** Materials that must be moderately heated or exposed to relatively high ambient temperatures before ignition can occur. Materials in this degree would not under normal conditions form hazardous atmospheres with air, but under high ambient temperatures or under moderate heating could release vapor in sufficient quantities to produce hazardous atmospheres with air. **3** Liquids and solids that can be ignited under almost all ambient temperature conditions. Materials in this degree produce hazardous atmospheres with air under almost all ambient temperatures or, though unaffected by ambient temperatures, are readily ignited under almost all conditions. **4** Materials that will rapidly or completely vaporize at atmospheric pressure and normal ambient temperature or that are readily dispersed in air and will burn readily.

##### NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION HAZARD RATINGS (continued):

**INSTABILITY HAZARD:** **0** Materials that in themselves are normally stable, even under fire conditions. **1** Materials that in themselves are normally stable, but that can become unstable at elevated temperatures and pressures. **2** Materials that readily undergo violent chemical change at elevated temperatures and pressures. **3** Materials that in themselves are capable of detonation or explosive decomposition or explosive reaction, but that require a strong initiating source or that must be heated under confinement before initiation. **4** Materials that in themselves are readily capable of detonation or explosive decomposition or explosive reaction at normal temperatures and pressures.

**FLAMMABILITY LIMITS IN AIR:** Much of the information related to fire and explosion is derived from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). **Flash Point** - Minimum temperature at which a liquid gives off sufficient vapors to form an ignitable mixture with air. **Autoignition Temperature:** The minimum temperature required to initiate combustion in air with no other source of ignition. **LEL** - the lowest percent of vapor in air, by volume, that will explode or ignite in the presence of an ignition source. **UEL** - the highest percent of vapor in air, by volume, that will explode or ignite in the presence of an ignition source.

##### TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION:

**Human and Animal Toxicology:** Possible health hazards as derived from human data, animal studies, or from the results of studies with similar compounds are presented. Definitions of some terms used in this section are: **LD<sub>50</sub>** - Lethal Dose (solids & liquids) which kills 50% of the exposed animals; **LC<sub>50</sub>** - Lethal Concentration (gases) which kills 50% of the exposed animals; **ppm** concentration expressed in parts of material per million parts of air or water; **mg/m<sup>3</sup>** concentration expressed in weight of substance per volume of air; **mg/kg** quantity of material, by weight, administered to a test subject, based on their body weight in kg. Other measures of toxicity include **TDLo**, the lowest dose to cause a symptom and **TCLo** the lowest concentration to cause a symptom; **TDo**, **LDLo**, and **LDo**, or **TC**, **TCo**, **LCLo**, and **LCo**, the lowest dose (or concentration) to cause lethal or toxic effects. **Cancer Information:** The sources are: **IARC** - the International Agency for Research on Cancer; **NTP** - the National Toxicology Program,

**RTECS** - the Registry of Toxic Effects of Chemical Substances, **OSHA** and **CAL/OSHA**. IARC and NTP rate chemicals on a scale of decreasing potential to cause human cancer with rankings from 1 to 4. Subrankings (2A, 2B, etc.) are also used. **Other Information:** **BEI** - ACGIH Biological Exposure Indices, represent the levels of determinants which are most likely to be observed in specimens collected from a healthy worker who has been exposed to chemicals to the same extent as a worker with inhalation exposure to the TLV.

##### ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION:

**BCF** = Bioconcentration Factor, which is used to determine if a substance will concentrate in lifeforms which consume contaminated plant or animal matter; **EC** is the Effect Concentration in water; **EC<sub>50</sub>** is the Effect Concentration for 50% of the organisms exposed; **NOEC** is the No Observed Effect Concentration; **MATC** is the Maximum Acceptable Toxicant Concentration; **NOLC** is the No Observed Lethal Concentration; **TL<sub>m</sub>** = median threshold limit; Coefficient of Oil/Water Distribution is represented by **log K<sub>ow</sub>** or **log K<sub>oc</sub>** and is used to assess a substance's behavior in the environment.

## 16. OTHER INFORMATION (Continued)

### DEFINITIONS OF TERMS (continued)

#### REGULATORY INFORMATION:

**U.S. and CANADA:** This section explains the impact of various laws and regulations on the material. **EPA** is the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. **WHMIS** is the Canadian Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System. **DOT** and **TC** are the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Transport Canada, respectively. Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (**SARA**); the Canadian Domestic/Non-Domestic Substances List (**DSL/NDL**); the U.S. Toxic Substance Control Act (**TSCA**); Marine Pollutant status according to the **DOT**; the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (**CERCLA or Superfund**); and various state regulations. This section also includes information on the precautionary warnings which appear on the material's package label.