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MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

Product Name:

HELIUM BASED,
Compressed Gas Mixtures

Issued: May 2014

Revision: 9

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Label 2.2 : Non
flammable, non toxic
gas.

IDENTIFICATION

Chemical Name: Helium, Argon, Nitrogen and Carbon Dioxide
Synonyms: Some of Blueshield™ range, some of Lasal™ range, some of Arcal™ range
UN Number: 1956
Poisons Schedule Number: None allocated
G.T. EPG. (Group Text. Emergency Procedure Guide): AS 1678 2C1 or 2C2

Use: Inert Gas Shielding For Arc Welding, Laser Machines.

HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION

Dangerous Goods Class and Subsidiary Risk: 2.2
HSNO Classification: Not Hazardous

Hazard Statement: Contains gas under pressure; may explode if heated.

Precautionary Statements: Read label before use.
Read Safety Data Sheet before use.
Protect from sunlight.
Store in a well-ventilated place.

COMPOSITION

Ingredients

Chemical Entity	CAS Number	Proportion
Helium	7440-59-7	50% to 98%
Argon	7440-37-1	0% to 50%
Nitrogen	7727-37-9	0% to 50%
Carbon Dioxide	124-38-9	0% to 5%

FIRST AID MEASURES

Health Effects

Acute

Swallowed: Not applicable to gases
Eye: Not irritating to eye.
Skin: Not irritating to skin.

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Inhaled: Non toxic. By diluting the oxygen concentration in air below the level necessary to support life, it can act as an asphyxiant. Effects of oxygen deficiency are: 12-16%: breathing and pulse rate increased, muscular coordination slightly disturbed; 10-14%: emotional upset, abnormal fatigue, disturbed respiration; 6-10%: nausea and vomiting, collapse or loss of consciousness; below 6%: convulsive movements, possible respiratory collapse and death.

Chronic

Long term exposure to helium has no known health effects. Prolonged exposure to an oxygen deficient atmosphere (below 18% oxygen in air) may affect the heart and nervous system.

First AidInhalation:

In high concentrations may cause asphyxiation. Symptoms may include loss of mobility/consciousness. Remove victim to uncontaminated area wearing self contained breathing apparatus. Keep victim warm and rested. Call a doctor. Apply artificial respiration if breathing stopped.

Skin Contact:

Remove contaminated clothing and shoes immediately – Clothing frozen to the skin should be thawed before being removed – In case of frostbite, thaw with lukewarm water. Obtain immediate medical assistance.

Eye Contact:

Immediately flush eyes thoroughly with water for at least 15 minutes.

Advice to Doctor

Advise doctor that victim has been exposed to an oxygen deficient atmosphere.

General:

Rescuers should not enter an oxygen deficient atmosphere without using self-contained full face positive pressure breathing equipment.

FIRE FIGHTING MEASURES**Flammability:**

Non Flammable although mixtures where the oxygen content is >21% will vigorously support combustion of many materials which will not normally burn in air. Store away from flammable products. Never smoke or carry out hot work in oxygen rich atmosphere. Never wear clothing saturated with oxygen.

Fire/Explosion Hazard:

Exposure to fire may cause containers to rupture/explode.

Extinguishing Media:

Water jet or water fog. If possible, stop flow of product. Move away from the container and cool with water from a protected position.

Hazchem Code:

2 T

Recommended Protective Clothing:

Breathing apparatus need only be worn if the substance is involved in a fire. In confined space use self-contained breathing apparatus.

ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES

Personal Protection:

Personnel engaged in the movement of cylinders shall be provided with safety footwear and leather or PVC gloves. Full cover overalls and safety glasses recommended. In areas where equipment failure may cause an immediate high concentration of helium, approved self-contained full face respiratory equipment should be readily available.

Spills and Disposal:

Ventilate area. Stop leak if it can be done without risk. Allow gas to dissipate to atmosphere. Evacuate Area.

Reference Guide:

Standard SNZ HB 76:2008 Dangerous Goods – Initial Emergency Response Guide.

General:

Only experienced and properly instructed personnel should handle compressed gases. Cylinder contents and identification labels provided by the supplier must not be removed or defaced. Colour coding should not be the only criterion used for content identification.

HANDLING AND STORAGE

Handling

Flammability:

Non Flammable although mixtures where the oxygen content is >21% will vigorously support combustion of many materials which will not normally burn in air. Store away from flammable products. Never smoke or carry out hot work in oxygen rich atmosphere. Never wear clothing saturated with oxygen.

General:

Only experienced and properly instructed personnel should handle compressed gases. Cylinder contents and identification labels provided by the supplier must not be removed or defaced. Colour coding should not be the only criterion used for content identification.

Approved Handlers:

Approved handlers are not required, non hazardous gas (HSNO).

Storage

Separation:

Storage of compressed gas cylinders shall be in compliance with New Zealand regulations. Cylinders shall be stored in a cool, dry, well ventilated area out of direct sunlight and away from heat and ignition sources. No part of cylinders shall be exposed to temperatures above 50°C. Avoid any contact with oil or grease particularly to the cylinder valve. Do not allow backfeed into the container. Use only properly specified equipment which is suitable for this product, its supply pressure and temperature. Cylinders shall be stored upright on a level, fireproof floor, secure in position and protected from damage. Full cylinders shall be stored separately from empties. Cylinders should be moved by hand-truck or cart designed for that purpose.

Spills and Disposal:

Ventilate area. Stop leak if it can be done without risk. Allow gas to dissipate to atmosphere. Evacuate Area.

EXPOSURE CONTROLS / PERSONAL PROTECTION**Exposure Standards:**

Helium, Argon and Nitrogen are simple asphyxiants.
Carbon Dioxide TWA 5,000 ppm v/v, STEL 30,000 ppm v/v

Engineering Controls:

Provide adequate local exhaust and dilution (general) ventilation and supply sufficient replacement air to maintain oxygen concentration above 18%.

Personal Protection:

Personnel engaged in the movement of cylinders shall be provided with safety footwear and leather or PVC gloves. Full cover overalls and safety glasses recommended. In areas where equipment failure may cause an immediate high concentration of helium, approved self-contained full face respiratory equipment should be readily available.

PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES**Physical Properties**

Appearance:	Colourless, Odourless, Tasteless	Flashpoint:	Non Flammable
Boiling Point:	Not Applicable	Flammability Limits:	Non Flammable
Vapour Pressure:	Not Applicable	Solubility in Water (at 0°C):	Not Applicable

Other Properties

Relative Density (at 15°C) (Air = 1):	0.14 to 0.56	Density of Gas (101.3 kPa, 15°C):	0.17 to 0.68
Molecular Weight:	Not Applicable	Critical Temperature:	Not Applicable

STABILITY AND REACTIVITY**Flammability:**

Non Flammable although mixtures where the oxygen content is >21% will vigorously support combustion of many materials which will not normally burn in air. Store away from flammable products. Never smoke or carry out hot work in oxygen rich atmosphere. Never wear clothing saturated with oxygen.

Materials Compatibility:

No Information.

TOXICOLOGY INFORMATION

No known toxicological effects from this product.

ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

No known ecological damage caused by this product.

DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS

Do not discharge into any place where its accumulation could be dangerous. To atmosphere in a well ventilated place.

TRANSPORT INFORMATION

UN Number:	1956
Proper Shipping Name:	COMPRESSED GAS, N.O.S (CONTAINS HELIUM, ARGON, NITROGEN AND CARBON DIOXIDE)
Dangerous Goods Class and Subsidiary Risk:	2.2
Packing Group:	Not applicable
Hazchem Code:	2 T

Other Information: Avoid transport on vehicles where the load is not separated from the driver's compartment.
Ensure vehicle driver is aware of the potential hazards of the load and knows what to do in the event of an accident or an emergency.
Before transporting product containers:

- Ensure that containers are firmly secured.
- Ensure cylinder valve is closed and not leaking.
- Ensure there is adequate ventilation.
- Compliance with applicable regulations.

REGULATORY INFORMATION

ERMA Register Approval No: HSR002533

HSNO Controls: Hazardous Substances (Compressed Gases) Regulations 2004.
Compressed Gas Mixtures (Non-hazardous) Group Standard 2006
Hazardous Substances (Tank Wagon and Transportable Containers) Regulations 2004.

Approved Handlers:
Approved handlers are not required, non hazardous gas (HSNO).

OTHER INFORMATION

Helium based mixtures are supplied in high pressure cylinders.

Cylinder Colour: AS 4484-2004 Brown PMS 463C / Peacock Blue PMS 5473C / Pewter PMS 431U / Green Grey PMS 415C / Silver Grey PMS 441C / Black

Cylinder Valve Outlet: Medical: AS 2472 Fig. 8 (oxygen less than 20%)
AS 2472 Fig 4 (oxygen > 20%)
Industrial: AS 2473 Type 10 Scandina Cap / Blue ALTOP

References:

- L'Air Liquide Gas Encyclopaedia - Elsevier Scientific Publishing Co. Amsterdam
- Cheminfo Database
- New Zealand Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail
- NHMRC Threshold Limit Values - Commonwealth Dept Health
- SAA Safe Storage and Handling Information Cards
- SAA Emergency Procedure Cards
- Matheson Gas Data Book, 6th Edition, Matheson 1980
- Canadian Liquid Air Montreal, Canada - Gas Products Safety Data Sheets
- AS 1894 Code of Practice for Safe Handling of Cryogenic fluids
- NZCIC Code of Practice – Preparation of Safety Data Sheets

END MSDS

This MSDS summarises our best knowledge of the health and safety hazard information of the product and how to safely handle and use the product in the workplace. Each user should read this MSDS and consider the information in the context of how the product will be handled and used in the workplace in conjunction with other products.

If clarification or further information is needed to ensure that an appropriate risk assessment can be made, the user should contact this company.

Our responsibility for products sold is subject to our standard terms and conditions, a copy of which is sent to our customers and is also available on request.

This MSDS has been prepared in accordance with NZCIC Code of Practice – Preparation of Safety Data Sheets.

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