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## MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

Product Name:

**METHANE**  
Gas Mixture less than 7.7%

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### IDENTIFICATION

**Chemical Name:** Argon (Ar) and Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>)  
**Synonyms:** None  
**UN Number:** 1956

**Use:** Calibration Use.

### 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 Material Safety Data Sheet before use.  
Protect from sunlight.  
Store in a well-ventilated place.  
Product is a simple asphyxiant.  
Wear protective gloves and eye protection.

### COMPOSITION

Ingredients	CAS Number	Proportion
Chemical Entity		
Argon	7440-37-1	92.3% to 99%
Methane	74-82-8	1% to 7.7%

Contains no other components or impurities that will influence the classification of the product.

**FIRST AID MEASURES****Health Effects****Acute**

Swallowed: Not applicable to gases

Eye: Not irritating to the eye

Skin: Not irritating to the skin

**Inhaled:** Methane gas mixture less than 5% is non-toxic at normal temperature and pressure. 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:

16%: breathing and pulse rate increased, impaired thinking and attention, reduced coordination;

14%: Abnormal fatigue upon exertion, emotional upset, faulty coordination, poor judgement;

12.5%: Very poor judgement and coordination, impaired respiration that can cause permanent hear damage, nausea and vomiting;

below 10%: Inability to perform various movements, loss of consciousness, convulsions, and death.

**Chronic**

Long term exposure to Methane gas mixture less than 5% has no known health effects. Prolonged exposure to an oxygen deficient atmosphere (below 19% oxygen in air) may affect the heart and nervous system.

**First Aid**Inhalation:

In high concentrations may cause asphyxiation. Symptoms may include loss of mobility/consciousness. Remove victim to uncontaminated area whilst wearing self contained breathing apparatus. Victim may not be aware of asphyxiation. Keep victim warm and rested. Call a doctor. Apply artificial respiration if breathing stopped.

**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.

**Fire/Explosion Hazard:**

Non-flammable, however exposure to fire may cause container to rupture/explode. Cylinders involved in a fire/explosion may rocket. Move cylinders from vicinity of fire if safe to do so. Cool cylinders by spraying flooding quantities of water from a protected location. If unable to keep cylinders cool, evacuate area, minimum distance 200 meters.

**Extinguishing Media:**

Use appropriate media to extinguish source of surrounding fire. Cool cylinders with water if possible.

**Hazchem Code:**

2 T

**Recommended Protective Clothing:**

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, safety glasses and leather or PVC gloves. Full cover overalls are recommended. In areas where equipment failure may cause an immediate high concentration of methane gas mixture less than 5%, ensure adequate ventilation and have approved self-contained, full face respiratory equipment readily available for emergencies.

**Spills and Disposal:**

Ventilate area. Stop leak if it can be done without risk. Allow gas to dissipate to atmosphere. Prevent from entering sewers, basements and workpits, or any place where its accumulation can be dangerous.

**Reference Guide:**

Standard SNZ HB 76:2008 Dangerous Goods – Initial Emergency Response Guide.  
AS/NZS 1337 – Eye Protection for Industrial Applications  
AS/NZS 2161.1 – Occupational Protective Gloves – Selection, use and maintenance  
AS/NZS 1715 – Selection, Use and Maintenance of Respiratory Protective Devices  
AS/NZS 1716 – Respiratory Protective Devices

**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.

**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:**

Storage of compressed gas cylinders shall be in compliance with New Zealand HSNO Regulations.

Cylinders will be kept away from ignition sources (including static discharges).

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.

Cylinders shall be stored upright on a level, fireproof floor, secured 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.

**Separation:**

Avoid any contact with oil or grease particularly to the cylinder valve.

Methane gas mixture less than 5% can be stored with most common substances.

**Spills and Disposal:**

Ventilate area. Stop leak if it can be done without risk. Allow gas to dissipate to atmosphere. Prevent from entering sewers, basements and workpits, or any place where its accumulation can be dangerous.

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

Argon and Methane are simple asphyxiants.

**Engineering Controls:**

Do not allow backfeed into the cylinder.

Use only properly specified equipment which is suitable for this product, its supply pressure, and temperature.

Provide adequate local exhaust and dilution (general) ventilation and supply sufficient replacement air to maintain oxygen concentration above 19%.

**Personal Protection:**

Personnel engaged in the movement of cylinders shall be provided with safety footwear, safety glasses and leather or PVC gloves. Full cover overalls are recommended. In areas where equipment failure may cause an immediate high concentration of methane gas mixture less than 5%, ensure adequate ventilation and have approved self-contained, full face respiratory equipment readily available for emergencies.

**Reference Guide:**

AS/NZS 1337 – Eye Protection for Industrial Applications

AS/NZS 2161.1 – Occupational Protective Gloves – Selection, use and maintenance

AS/NZS 1715 – Selection, Use and Maintenance of Respiratory Protective Devices

AS/NZS 1716 – Respiratory Protective Devices

**PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES**

Properties are based on Argon (main constituent)

**Physical Properties**

Appearance:	Colourless, Odourless, Tasteless	Flashpoint:	Non Flammable
Boiling Point:	-185.9°C	Flammability Limits:	Non Flammable
Vapour Pressure:	Not applicable	Solubility in Water (at 0°C):	0.054 m <sup>3</sup> /kg
Specific Gravity:	Not applicable		

**Other Properties**

Relative Density (at 15°C) (Air = 1):	1.38	Density of Gas (101.3 kPa, 15°C):	1.691 kg/m <sup>3</sup>
Molecular Weight:	39.948	Critical Temperature:	-122.29°C

**STABILITY AND REACTIVITY****Flammability:**

Non-Flammable

**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. Vent to atmosphere in a well ventilated place.

**TRANSPORT INFORMATION**

<b>UN Number:</b>	1956
<b>Proper Shipping Name:</b>	COMPRESSED GAS, N.O.S (CONTAINS ARGON AND METHANE)
<b>Dangerous Goods Class and Subsidiary Risk:</b>	2.2
<b>Packing Group:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Hazchem Code:</b>	2 T
<b>Other Information:</b>	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure that containers are firmly secured.</li><li>• Ensure cylinder valve is closed and not leaking.</li><li>• Ensure there is adequate ventilation.</li><li>• Compliance with applicable regulations.</li></ul>

**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**

Methane/Argon mixture is supplied in high pressure cylinders.

Cylinder Colour: AS 2700 T53 Peacock Blue/ Silver Grey Band  
Cylinder Valve Outlet: AS 2473 Type 10

- References:
- . L'Air Liquide Gaz Encyclopaedia - Elsevier Scientific Publishing Co. Amsterdam
  - . NZS 5433:2007 Transport of Dangerous Goods on Land
  - . ERMA Website – Approvals Register – [www.erma.govt.nz](http://www.erma.govt.nz)
  - . SNZ HB76:2008 Dangerous Goods – Initial Emergency Response Guide
  - . Air Liquide Group MSDS – Argon AL003A Rev. 1
  - . ISO 10156 Gases and Gas mixtures – Determination of Fire Potential and Oxidising Ability for the Selection of Cylinder Valve Outlets
  - . Air Liquide Australia "Argon Based Compressed Gas Mixtures" MSDS June 2008
  - . AS1678 2C1 Emergency Procedure Guide – Transport – Non-Flammable, Compressed Gas
  - . AS 4484-2004 - Gas Cylinders for Industrial, Scientific, medical and refrigerant use - labelling and colour coding
  - . AS 2473.2-2007 - Valves for compressed gas outlets - Part 2 Outlet connections (threaded) and stem (inlet) threads
  - . Air Liquide New Zealand Document - DOPM-Z-TECH-0060 Cylinder Reference Manual for Cylinder Identification
  - . CGA Safety bulletin SB2-2007 Oxygen Deficiency
  - . Operators Handbook for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road – NZ Road Transport & Logistics Industry Training Organisation
  - . ALNZ - Transport of Gas cylinders in Non-Dedicated Vehicles Customer Information Guide
  - . Work Place Exposure Standards Effective From 2002, Department of Labour, New Zealand
  - . NZCIC Code of Practice – Preparation of Safety Data Sheets

**END MSDS**

This MSDS summarises to our best knowledge, at the date of issue, the health and safety hazard information regarding this product and general guidance on how to safely handle the product in the workplace. All due care has been taken to include accurate and up-to-date information in this MSDS.

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 Air Liquide New Zealand.

As far as lawfully possible, no liability for any loss, injury or damage (including consequential loss) which may be suffered or incurred by any person as a consequence of their reliance on the information contained in this MSDS can be accepted.

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

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

This MSDS is subject to change without notice, for the latest version of this MSDS visit <http://www.airliquide.com.au/en/technical/new-zealand-msds.html>

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