

2. HAZARD IDENTIFICATION

EMERGENCY OVERVIEW: Helium is a colorless, odorless gas. The main health hazard associated with overexposure of this gas is asphyxiation, by displacement of oxygen (especially in confined-spaces). This gas presents no hazard of flammability or reactivity.

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

INHALATION: Due to the small size of an individual cylinder of this product, no unusual health effects from exposure to the product are anticipated under routine circumstances of use. If this product is released in a small, poorly ventilated area (i.e. an enclosed or confined space), an oxygen deficient environment may occur. Information on the symptoms of exposure to oxygen deficient environments is presented below.

OXYGEN

CONCENTRATION

SYMPTOM OF EXPOSURE

12-16% Oxygen:	Breathing and pulse rate increased, muscular coordination slightly disturbed.
10-14% Oxygen:	Emotional upset, abnormal fatigue, disturbed respiration.
6-10% Oxygen:	Nausea and vomiting, collapse or loss of consciousness.
Below 6%:	Convulsive movements, possible respiratory collapse, and death.

WARNING: The practice of intentionally inhaling helium for a voice-altering effect is extremely dangerous and may result in serious injury or death.

HEALTH EFFECTS OR RISKS FROM EXPOSURE: An Explanation in Lay Terms. Over-exposure to Helium may cause the following health effects:

ACUTE: Due to the small size of an individual cylinder of this product, no unusual health effects from exposure to the product are anticipated under routine circumstances of use. The most significant hazard associated with this gas is inhalation of oxygen-deficient atmospheres in the event this product is released in a small, enclosed or confined space. Symptoms of oxygen deficiency include respiratory difficulty, ringing in ears, headaches, shortness of breath, wheezing, headache, dizziness, indigestion, nausea, and, at high concentrations, unconsciousness or death may occur. The skin of a victim of over-exposure may have a blue color.

CHRONIC: Chronic exposure to oxygen-deficient atmospheres (below 18% oxygen in air) may effect the heart and nervous system.

TARGET ORGANS: ACUTE: Respiratory system. CHRONIC: Heart, central nervous system.

3. COMPOSITION and INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS

CHEMICAL NAME	CAS #	mole %	EXPOSURE LIMITS IN AIR					
			ACGIH-TLV		OSHA-PEL		NIOSH IDLH ppm	OTHER ppm
			TWA ppm	STEL ppm	TWA ppm	STEL ppm		
Helium	7440-59-7	99.95%	There are no specific exposure limits for Helium. Helium is a simple asphyxiant (SA). Oxygen levels should be maintained above 19.5%.					
Maximum Impurities		< 0.05%	None of the trace impurities in this product contribute significantly to the hazards associated with the product. All hazard information pertinent to this product has been provided in this Material Safety Data Sheet, per the requirements of the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard (29 CFR 1910.1200) and State equivalents standards.					

This material is classified as hazardous under OSHA regulations in the United States and the WHMIS in Canada.

NE = Not Established.

See Section 16 for Definitions of Terms Used.

NOTE (1): ALL WHMIS required information is included in appropriate sections based on the ANSI Z400.1-2004 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.

4. FIRST-AID MEASURES

RESCUERS SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO RETRIEVE VICTIMS OF EXPOSURE TO THIS PRODUCT WITHOUT ADEQUATE PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT.

No unusual health effects are anticipated after exposure to this product, due to the small cylinder size. If any adverse symptom develops after over-exposure to this product, remove victim(s) to fresh air, as quickly as possible. Only trained personnel should administer supplemental oxygen and/or cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, if necessary. Victim(s) who experience any adverse effect after over-exposure to this product must be taken for medical attention. Rescuers should be taken for medical attention, if necessary. Take copy of label and MSDS to physician or other health professional with victim(s).

MEDICAL CONDITIONS AGGRAVATED BY EXPOSURE: None known.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO PHYSICIANS: Treat symptoms and reduce over-exposure.

5. FIRE-FIGHTING MEASURES

FLASH POINT: Not applicable.

AUTOIGNITION TEMPERATURE: Not applicable.

FLAMMABLE LIMITS (in air by volume, %):

Lower (LEL): Not applicable.

Upper (UEL): Not applicable.

FIRE EXTINGUISHING MATERIALS: Non-flammable, inert gas. Use extinguishing media appropriate for surrounding fire.

UNUSUAL FIRE AND EXPLOSION HAZARDS: Helium does not burn; however, containers, when involved in fire, may rupture or burst in the heat of the fire.

Explosion Sensitivity to Mechanical Impact: Not Sensitive.

Explosion Sensitivity to Static Discharge: Not Sensitive.

SPECIAL FIRE-FIGHTING PROCEDURES: Structural fire-fighters must wear Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus and full protective equipment.

6. ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES

LEAK RESPONSE: Due to the small size and content of the cylinder, an accidental release of this product presents significantly less risk of an oxygen deficient environment and other safety hazards than a similar release from a larger cylinder. However, as with any chemical release, extreme caution must be used during emergency response procedures. In the event of a release in which the atmosphere is unknown, and in which other chemicals are potentially involved, evacuate the immediate area. Such releases should be responded to by trained personnel using pre-planned procedures. Proper protective equipment should be used. In case of a leak, clear the affected area, protect people, and respond with trained personnel.

For emergency disposal, secure the cylinder and slowly discharge the gas to the atmosphere in a well-ventilated area or outdoors. Allow the gas, which is lighter than air to dissipate. If necessary, monitor the surrounding area (and the original area of the release) for oxygen. Oxygen levels must be above 19.5% before non-emergency personnel are allowed to re-enter area.

If leaking incidentally from the cylinder or its valve, contact your supplier.

7. HANDLING AND STORAGE

WORK PRACTICES AND HYGIENE PRACTICES: Be aware of any signs of dizziness or fatigue; exposures to fatal concentrations of this product could occur without any significant warning symptoms, due to oxygen deficiency.

STORAGE AND HANDLING PRACTICES: Cylinders should be firmly secured to prevent falling or being knocked-over. Cylinders must be protected from the environment, and preferably kept at room temperature (approximately 21°C, 70°F). Cylinders should be stored in dry, well-ventilated areas away from sources of heat, ignition and direct sunlight. Protect cylinders against physical damage.

Full and empty cylinders should be segregated. Use a first-in, first-out inventory systems to prevent full containers from being stored for long periods of time. These cylinders are not refillable. **WARNING! Do not refill DOT 39 cylinders. To do so may cause personal injury or property damage.**

SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS FOR HANDLING GAS CYLINDERS: WARNING! Compressed gases can present significant safety hazards. During cylinder use, use equipment designed for these specific cylinders. Ensure all lines and equipment are rated for proper service pressure.

PROTECTIVE PRACTICES DURING MAINTENANCE OF CONTAMINATED EQUIPMENT: Follow practices indicated in Section 6 (Accidental Release Measures). Make certain application equipment is locked and tagged-out safely. Always use product in areas where adequate ventilation is provided.

8. EXPOSURE CONTROLS - PERSONAL PROTECTION

VENTILATION AND ENGINEERING CONTROLS: No special ventilation systems or engineering controls are needed under normal circumstances of use. As with all chemicals, use this product in well-ventilated areas.

RESPIRATORY PROTECTION: No special respiratory protection is required under normal circumstances of use. Use supplied air respiratory protection if Oxygen levels are below 19.5%, or unknown, during emergency response to a release of this product. If respiratory protection is needed, use only protection authorized in the U.S. Federal OSHA Standard (29 CFR 1910.134), applicable U.S. State regulations, or the Canadian CSA Standard Z94.4-93 and applicable standards of Canadian Provinces. Oxygen levels below 19.16.33% 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: Safety glasses. If necessary, refer to U.S. OSHA 29 CFR 1910.133 or appropriate Canadian Standards.

HAND PROTECTION: No special protection is needed under normal circumstances of use. If necessary, refer to U.S. OSHA 29 CFR 1910.138 or appropriate Standards of Canada.

BODY PROTECTION: No special protection is needed under normal circumstances of use. 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, use foot protection, as described in U.S. OSHA 29 CFR 1910.136.

9. PHYSICAL and CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

GAS DENSITY @ 32°F (0°C) and 1 atm: 0.0103 lbs/cu ft (1.165 kg/m³)

BOILING POINT: -452.1°F; -268.9 °C

FREEZING/MELTING POINT (@ 10 psig): Not Applicable.

SPECIFIC GRAVITY (air = 1) @ 70°F (21.1°C): 0.1381

pH: Not applicable.

SOLUBILITY IN WATER vol/vol at 32°F (0°C)and 1 atm: 0.0094

MOLECULAR WEIGHT: 4.00

EVAPORATION RATE (nBuAc = 1): Not applicable.

EXPANSION RATIO: Not applicable.

ODOR THRESHOLD: Not applicable. Odorless.

SPECIFIC VOLUME (ft³/lb): 96.7

VAPOR PRESSURE @ 70°F (21.1°C) (psig): Not applicable.

COEFFICIENT WATER/OIL DISTRIBUTION: Not applicable.

APPEARANCE, ODOR AND COLOR: This product is a colorless, odorless gas at normal temperature and pressure.

HOW TO DETECT THIS SUBSTANCE (warning properties): There are no unusual warning properties associated with a release of this product.

10. STABILITY and REACTIVITY

STABILITY: Normally stable, inert gas.

DECOMPOSITION PRODUCTS: None.

MATERIALS WITH WHICH SUBSTANCE IS INCOMPATIBLE: None. Helium is an inert gas.

HAZARDOUS POLYMERIZATION: Will not occur.

CONDITIONS TO AVOID: Cylinders exposed to high temperatures or direct flame can rupture or burst.

11. TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION

TOXICITY DATA: There are no specific toxicology data for Helium. Helium is a simple asphyxiant, which acts to displace oxygen in the environment.

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

IRRITANCY OF PRODUCT: Helium is not irritating; however, contact with rapidly expanding gases can cause frostbite to exposed tissue.

SENSITIZATION OF PRODUCT: Helium is not a sensitizer.

REPRODUCTIVE TOXICITY INFORMATION: Listed below is information concerning the effects Helium on the human reproductive system.

Mutagenicity: Helium has not been reported to cause mutagenic effects in humans.

Embryotoxicity: No embryotoxic effects have been described for Helium.

Teratogenicity: Helium has not been reported to cause teratogenic effects in humans.

Reproductive Toxicity: Helium has not been reported to cause adverse reproductive effects in humans.

11. TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION (Continued)

A mutagen is a chemical which causes permanent changes to genetic material (DNA) such that the changes will propagate through generation lines. An embryotoxin is a chemical which causes damage to a developing embryo (i.e. within the first eight weeks of pregnancy in humans), but the damage does not propagate across generational lines. A teratogen is a chemical which causes damage to a developing fetus, but the damage does not propagate across generational lines. A reproductive toxin is any substance which interferes in any way with the reproductive process.

BIOLOGICAL EXPOSURE INDICES (BEIs): Currently, Biological Exposure Indices (BEIs) have not been determined for Helium.

12. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

ENVIRONMENTAL STABILITY: Helium occurs naturally in the atmosphere. The gas will be dissipated rapidly in well-ventilated areas.

EFFECT OF MATERIAL ON PLANTS or ANIMALS: Due to the small cylinder size, and the inert nature of Helium, no adverse effect on plants or animals is anticipated if one cylinder of this product is released.

EFFECT OF CHEMICAL ON AQUATIC LIFE: No evidence is currently available on this product's effects on aquatic life.

13. DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS

PREPARING WASTES FOR DISPOSAL: Waste disposal must be in accordance with appropriate Federal, State, and local regulations. Cylinders with undesired residual product may be safely vented outdoors with the proper regulator. For further information, refer to Section 16 (Other Information).

14. TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

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

PROPER SHIPPING NAME: Helium, compressed
HAZARD CLASS NUMBER and DESCRIPTION: 2.2 (Non-Flammable Gas)
UN IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: UN 1046
PACKING GROUP: Not applicable.
DOT LABEL(S) REQUIRED: Class 2.2 (Non-Flammable Gas)

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MARINE POLLUTANT: Helium is not classified by the DOT as a Marine Pollutant (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 can present serious safety hazards. If transporting these cylinders in vehicles, ensure these cylinders are not exposed to extremely high temperatures (as may occur in an enclosed vehicle on a hot day). Additionally, the vehicle should be well-ventilated during transportation.

Note: DOT 39 Cylinders ship in a strong outer carton (overpack). Pertinent shipping information goes on the outside of the overpack. DOT 39 Cylinders do not have transportation information on the cylinder itself.

TRANSPORT CANADA TRANSPORTATION OF DANGEROUS GOODS REGULATIONS: This gas is considered as Dangerous Goods, per regulations of Transport Canada.

PROPER SHIPPING NAME: Helium, compressed
HAZARD CLASS NUMBER and DESCRIPTION: 2.2 (Non-Flammable Gas)
UN IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: UN 1046
PACKING GROUP: Not Applicable
HAZARD LABEL: Class 2.2 (Non-Flammable Gas)
SPECIAL PROVISIONS: None
EXPLOSIVE LIMIT AND LIMITED QUANTITY INDEX: 0.12
ERAP INDEX: None

14. TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION (Continued)

PASSENGER CARRYING SHIP INDEX: None

PASSENGER CARRYING ROAD VEHICLE OR PASSENGER CARRYING RAILWAY VEHICLE INDEX: 75

NORTH AMERICAN EMERGENCY RESPONSE GUIDEBOOK NUMBER (2000): 121

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: This gas is not subject to the reporting requirements of Sections 302, 304 and 313 of Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act., as follows:

U.S. SARA THRESHOLD PLANNING QUANTITY: There are no specific Threshold Planning Quantities for this gas. The default Federal MSDS submission and inventory requirement filing threshold of 10,000 lb (4,540 kg) may apply, per 40 CFR 370.20.

U.S. TSCA INVENTORY STATUS: Helium is listed on the TSCA Inventory.

U.S. CERCLA REPORTABLE QUANTITIES (RQ): Not applicable.

STATE REGULATORY INFORMATION: Helium is covered under the following specific State regulations:

Alaska - Designated Toxic and Hazardous Substances: Helium.

California - Permissible Exposure Limits for Chemical Contaminants: Helium.

Florida - Substance List: Helium.

Illinois - Toxic Substance List: Helium.

Kansas - Section 302/313 List: No.

Massachusetts - Substance List: Helium.

Michigan - Critical Materials Register: No.

Minnesota - List of Hazardous Substances: Helium.

Missouri - Employer Information/Toxic Substance List: Helium .

New Jersey - Right to Know Hazardous Substance List: Helium.

North Dakota - List of Hazardous Chemicals, Reportable Quantities: No.

Pennsylvania - Hazardous Substance List: Helium.

Rhode Island - Hazardous Substance List: Helium.

Texas - Hazardous Substance List: No.

West Virginia - Hazardous Substance List: No.

Wisconsin - Toxic and Hazardous Substances: No.

CALIFORNIA SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT (PROPOSITION 65): Helium is not on the California Proposition 65 lists.

OTHER U.S. FEDERAL REGULATIONS:

- Generally recognized as safe (GRAS), as a direct human food ingredient when used as processing agent, per 21, CFR, 184.1540. Helium USP is regulated by the FDA as a prescription drug.
- Depending on specific operations involving the use of this product, the regulations of the Process Safety Management of Highly Hazardous Chemicals may be applicable (29 CFR 1910.119). Under this regulation Helium is not listed in Appendix A.
- Helium does not contain any Class I or Class II ozone depleting chemicals (40 CFR part 82).
- Helium is not listed as a Regulated Substance, per 40 CFR, Part 68, of the Risk Management for Chemical Releases.

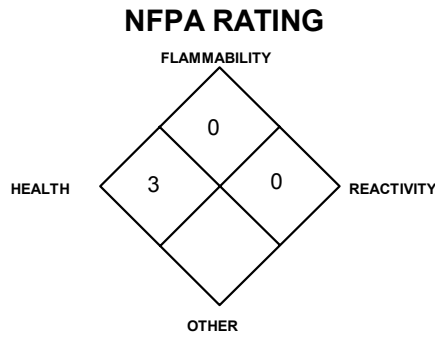
ADDITIONAL CANADIAN REGULATIONS:

CANADIAN DSL/NDL INVENTORY STATUS: Helium on the Canadian DSL Inventory.

CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT (CEPA) PRIORITIES SUBSTANCES LISTS: Helium is not on the CEPA Priorities Substances List.

CANADIAN WHMIS CLASSIFICATION: Helium is categorized as a Controlled Product, Hazard Class A, as per the Controlled Product Regulations.

16. OTHER INFORMATION



HAZARDOUS MATERIAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM		
HEALTH HAZARD	(BLUE)	3
FLAMMABILITY HAZARD	(RED)	0
PHYSICAL HAZARD	(YELLOW)	0
PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT		
EYES	RESPIRATORY	HANDS
BODY		
See Section 8		
For Routine Industrial Use and Handling Applications		

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 produce 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.

INFORMATION ABOUT DOT-39 NRC (Non-Refillable Cylinder) PRODUCTS

DOT 39 cylinders ship as hazardous materials when full. Once the cylinders are relieved of pressure (empty) they are not considered hazardous material or waste. Residual gas in this type of cylinder is not an issue because toxic gas mixtures are prohibited. Calibration gas mixtures typically packaged in these cylinders are Nonflammable compressed gas, n.o.s., UN 1956. A small percentage of calibration gases packaged in DOT 39 cylinders are flammable gas mixtures.

For disposal of used DOT-39 cylinders, it is acceptable to place them in a landfill if local laws permit. Their disposal is no different than that employed with other DOT containers such as spray paint cans, household aerosols, or disposable cylinders of propane (for camping, torch, etc.). When feasible, we recommended recycling for scrap metal content. Air Liquide America will do this for any customer that wishes to return cylinders to us prepaid. All that is required is a phone call to make arrangements so we may anticipate arrival. Scrapping cylinders involves some preparation before the metal dealer may accept them. We perform this operation as a service to valued customers who want to participate.

Further information about Helium can be found in the following pamphlets published by: Compressed Gas Association Inc. (CGA), 4221 Walney Road 5th floor, Chantilly, VA 20151-2923. Telephone: (703) 788 - 2700.

- G-9.1 *"Commodity Specification for Helium"*
- P-1 *"Safe Handling of Compressed Gases in Containers"*
- P-9 *"The Inert Gases: Argon, Nitrogen and Helium"*
- P-14 *"Accident Prevention in Oxygen-Rich and Oxygen Deficient Atmospheres"*
- SB-2 *"Oxygen Deficient Atmospheres"*
- SB-14 *Helium Gas Used for Filling Balloons"*
- "Handbook of Compressed Gases"*

16. OTHER INFORMATION (Continued)

PREPARED BY:

CHEMICAL SAFETY ASSOCIATES, Inc.
PO Box 3519, La Mesa, CA 91944-3519
619/670-0609



This Material Safety Data Sheet is offered pursuant to OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard, 29 CFR, 1910.1200. Other government regulations must be reviewed for applicability to this product. To the best of Air Liquide's knowledge, the information contained herein is reliable and accurate as of this date; however, accuracy, suitability or completeness are not guaranteed and no warranties of any type, either express or implied, are provided. The information contained herein relates only to this specific product. If this product is combined with other materials, all component properties must be considered. Data may be changed from time to time. Be sure to consult the latest edition.