

# Praxair Material Safety Data Sheet

## 1. Chemical Product and Company Identification

<b>Product Name:</b> Argon, compressed (MSDS No. P-4563-I)	<b>Trade Names:</b> Argon
<b>Chemical Name:</b> Argon	<b>Synonyms:</b> Shielding gas, argon 40
<b>Chemical Family:</b> Rare gas	<b>Product Grades:</b> 4.8 Oxygen Free, 4.8 Zero, 4.8 Inductively Coupled Plasma, 5.5 Trace Analytical, 6.0 Research, Industrial Gas
<b>Telephone:</b>	<b>Company Name:</b> Praxair, Inc. 39 Old Ridgebury Road Danbury, CT 06810-5113
<b>Emergencies:</b> 1-800-645-4633* <b>CHEMTREC:</b> 1-800-424-9300* <b>Routine:</b> 1-800-PRAXAIR	

*\*Call emergency numbers 24 hours a day only for spills, leaks, fire, exposure, or accidents involving this product. For routine information, contact your supplier, Praxair sales representative, or call 1-800-PRAXAIR (1-800-772-9247).*

## 2. Hazards Identification

### EMERGENCY OVERVIEW

**CAUTION! High-pressure gas.  
Can cause rapid suffocation.  
May cause dizziness and drowsiness.  
Self-contained breathing apparatus and protective clothing  
may be required by rescue workers.  
Under ambient conditions, this is a colorless, odorless,  
tasteless gas with no odor.**

**OSHA REGULATORY STATUS:** This material is considered hazardous by the OSHA Hazard Communications Standard (29 CFR 1910.1200).

### POTENTIAL HEALTH EFFECTS:

#### Effects of a Single (Acute) Overexposure

**Inhalation.** Asphyxiant. Effects are due to lack of oxygen. Moderate concentrations may cause headache, drowsiness, dizziness, excitation, excess salivation, vomiting, and unconsciousness. Lack of oxygen can kill.

**Skin Contact.** No harm expected.

**Swallowing.** An unlikely route of exposure. This product is a gas at normal temperature and pressure.

**Eye Contact.** No harm expected.

**Effects of Repeated (Chronic) Overexposure.** No harm expected.

**Other Effects of Overexposure.** Argon is an asphyxiant. Lack of oxygen can kill.

**Medical Conditions Aggravated by Overexposure.** The toxicology and the physical and chemical properties of argon suggest that overexposure is unlikely to aggravate existing medical conditions.

**CARCINOGENICITY:** Argon is not listed by NTP, OSHA, or IARC.

**POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:** None known. For further information, see section 12, Ecological Information.

### 3. Composition/Information on Ingredients

See section 16 for important information about mixtures.

COMPONENT	CAS NUMBER	CONCENTRATION
Argon	7440-37-1	>99%*

\*The symbol > means "greater than."

### 4. First Aid Measures

**INHALATION:** Immediately remove to fresh air. If not breathing, give artificial respiration. If breathing is difficult, qualified personnel may give oxygen. Call a physician.

**SKIN CONTACT:** Flush with water. If discomfort persists, seek medical attention.

**SWALLOWING:** An unlikely route of exposure. This product is a gas at normal temperature and pressure.

**EYE CONTACT:** Flush eyes thoroughly with warm water. Hold the eyelids open and away from the eyeballs to ensure that all surfaces are thoroughly flushed. If discomfort persists, seek medical attention.

**NOTES TO PHYSICIAN:** *There is no specific antidote. Treatment of overexposure should be directed at the control of symptoms and the clinical condition of the patient. Refer to section 16.*

### 5. Fire Fighting Measures

**FLAMMABLE PROPERTIES:** Nonflammable

**SUITABLE EXTINGUISHING MEDIA:** Argon cannot catch fire. Use media appropriate for surrounding fire.

**PRODUCTS OF COMBUSTION:** Not applicable.

**PROTECTION OF FIREFIGHTERS: CAUTION! High-pressure gas.** Evacuate all personnel from danger area. Immediately deluge cylinders with water from maximum distance until cool; then move them away from fire area if without risk. Self-contained breathing apparatus may be required by rescue workers. (See section 16.) On-site fire brigades must comply with OSHA 29 CFR 1910.156.

**Specific Physical and Chemical Hazards.** Heat of fire can build pressure in cylinder and cause it to rupture. No part of cylinder should be subjected to a temperature higher than 125°F (52°C). Argon cylinders are equipped with a pressure relief device. (Exceptions may exist where authorized by DOT.)

**Protective Equipment and Precautions for Firefighters.** Firefighters should wear personal protective equipment and fire-fighting turnout gear as appropriate for surrounding fire.

## 6. Accidental Release Measures

### STEPS TO BE TAKEN IF MATERIAL IS RELEASED OR SPILLED:

#### **CAUTION! High-Pressure Gas.**

**Personal Precautions.** Argon is an asphyxiant. Lack of oxygen can kill. Evacuate all personnel from danger area. Use self-contained breathing apparatus where needed. Shut off leak if without risk. Ventilate area of leak or move cylinder to a well-ventilated area. Test for sufficient oxygen, especially in confined spaces, before allowing reentry.

**Environmental Precautions.** Keep personnel away. Discard any product, residue, disposable container, or liner in an environmentally acceptable manner, in full compliance with federal, state, and local regulations. If necessary, call your local supplier for assistance.

## 7. Handling and Storage

**PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN IN HANDLING:** Protect cylinders from damage. Use a suitable hand truck to move cylinders; do not drag, roll, slide, or drop. Never attempt to lift a cylinder by its cap; the cap is intended solely to protect the valve. Never insert an object (e.g., wrench, screwdriver, pry bar) into cap openings; doing so may damage the valve and cause a leak. Use an adjustable strap wrench to remove over-tight or rusted caps. Slowly open valve.. If valve is hard to open, discontinue use and contact your supplier. Close valve after each use; keep closed even when empty. Never apply flame or localized heat directly to any part of the cylinder. High temperatures may damage the cylinder and could cause the pressure relief device to fail prematurely, venting the cylinder contents. For other precautions in using this mixture, see section 16.

**PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN IN STORAGE:** Store and use with adequate ventilation. Firmly secure cylinders upright to keep them from falling or being knocked over. Screw valve protection cap firmly in place by hand. Store only where temperature will not exceed 125°F (52°C). Store full and empty cylinders separately. Use a first-in, first-out inventory system to prevent storing full cylinders for long periods.

**RECOMMENDED PUBLICATIONS:** For further information on storage, handling, and use, see Praxair publication P-14-153, *Guidelines for Handling Gas Cylinders and Containers*. Obtain from your local supplier.

## 8. Exposure Controls/Personal Protection

**See section 16 for important information on by-products generated during use in welding and cutting.**

COMPONENT	OSHA PEL	ACGIH TLV-TWA (2009)
Argon	Not Established.	Simple asphyxiant

IDLH = Not available.

**ENGINEERING CONTROLS:**

**Local Exhaust.** Use a local exhaust system, if necessary, to prevent oxygen deficiency and keep hazardous fumes and gases below applicable exposure limits in the worker's breathing zone.

**Mechanical (General).** General exhaust ventilation may be acceptable if it can maintain an adequate supply of air and keep hazardous fumes and gases below applicable TLVs in the worker's breathing zone.

**Special.** None

**Other.** None

**PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT:**

**Skin Protection.** Wear work gloves when handling cylinders; welding gloves for welding. Metatarsal shoes for cylinder handling. Select in accordance with OSHA 29 CFR 1910.132 and 1910.133. For welding, see section 16. Regardless of protective equipment, never touch live electrical parts.

**Eye/Face Protection.** Wear safety glasses when handling cylinders. Select in accordance with OSHA 29 CFR 1910.133. For welding, see section 16.

**Respiratory Protection.** A respiratory protection program that meet OSHA 29 CFR 1910.134, ANSI Z88.2, or MSHA 30 CFR 72.710 (where applicable) requirements must be followed whenever workplace conditions warrant respirator use. Use an air-supplied or air-purifying cartridge if the action level is exceeded. Ensure that the respirator has the appropriate protection factor for the exposure level. If cartridge type respirators are used, the cartridge must be appropriate for the chemical exposure (e.g., an organic vapor cartridge). For emergencies or instances with unknown exposure levels, use a self-contained breathing apparatus. Adequate ventilation must keep worker exposure below applicable exposure limits for fumes, gases, and other by products of welding.

<b>9. Physical and Chemical Properties</b>
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<b>APPEARANCE:</b>	Colorless gas
<b>ODOR:</b>	Odorless
<b>ODOR THRESHOLD:</b>	Not applicable.
<b>PHYSICAL STATE:</b>	Gas at normal temperature and pressure
<b>pH:</b>	Not applicable.
<b>MELTING POINT</b> at 1 atm:	-308.83°F (-189.35°C)
<b>BOILING POINT</b> at 1 atm:	-302.57°F (-185.87°C)
<b>FLASH POINT</b> (test method):	Not applicable.
<b>EVAPORATION RATE</b> (Butyl Acetate = 1):	Not applicable.
<b>FLAMMABILITY:</b>	Nonflammable
<b>FLAMMABLE LIMITS IN AIR</b> , % by volume:	<b>LOWER:</b> Not applicable. <b>UPPER:</b> Not applicable.
<b>VAPOR PRESSURE</b> at 68°F (20°C):	Not applicable.
<b>VAPOR DENSITY</b> at 70°F (21.1°C) and 1 atm:	0.103 lb/ft <sup>3</sup> (1.654 kg/m <sup>3</sup> )
<b>SPECIFIC GRAVITY</b> (H <sub>2</sub> O = 1) at boiling point:	1.40
<b>SPECIFIC GRAVITY</b> (Air = 1) at 70°F (21.1°C) and 1 atm:	1.38

**SOLUBILITY IN WATER**, vol/vol at 32°F (0°C)

and 1 atm: 0.056

**PARTITION COEFFICIENT: n-octanol/water:** Not available.**AUTOIGNITION TEMPERATURE:** Not applicable.**DECOMPOSITION TEMPERATURE:** None**PERCENT VOLATILES BY VOLUME:** 100**MOLECULAR WEIGHT:** 39.95**MOLECULAR FORMULA:** Ar**10. Stability and Reactivity****CHEMICAL STABILITY:**  Unstable  Stable**CONDITIONS TO AVOID:** None known.**INCOMPATIBLE MATERIALS:** None known. Argon is chemically inert.**HAZARDOUS DECOMPOSITION PRODUCTS:** Ozone and nitrogen oxides may be formed by radiation from arc. (See section 16.) Other decomposition products of normal operation originate from volatilization, reaction, or oxidation of the material being worked.**POSSIBILITY OF HAZARDOUS REACTIONS:**  May Occur  Will Not Occur**11. Toxicological Information****ACUTE DOSE EFFECTS:** Argon is a simple asphyxiant. The welding process may generate hazardous fumes and gases. (See sections 10 and 16.)**STUDY RESULTS:** No known effects.**12. Ecological Information****ECOTOXICITY:** No known effects.**OTHER ADVERSE EFFECTS:** Argon does not contain any Class I or Class II ozone-depleting chemicals.**13. Disposal Considerations****WASTE DISPOSAL METHOD:** Do not attempt to dispose of residual or unused quantities. Return cylinder to supplier. For emergency disposal, secure cylinder in a well-ventilated area or outdoors; then slowly discharge gas to the atmosphere.**14. Transport Information****DOT/IMO SHIPPING NAME:** Argon, compressed

HAZARD CLASS:	PACKING GROUP/Zone:	IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:	PRODUCT RQ:
2.2	NA*	UN1006	None

**SHIPPING LABEL(s):** NONFLAMMABLE GAS**PLACARD (when required):** NONFLAMMABLE GAS

\*NA—Not applicable.

**SPECIAL SHIPPING INFORMATION:** Cylinders should be transported in a secure position, in a well-ventilated vehicle. Cylinders transported in an enclosed, nonventilated compartment of a vehicle can present serious safety hazards.

Shipment of compressed gas cylinders that have been filled without the owner's consent is a violation of federal law [49 CFR 173.301(b)].

**MARINE POLLUTANTS:** Argon is not listed as a marine pollutant by DOT.

## 15. Regulatory Information

The following selected regulatory requirements may apply to this product. Not all such requirements are identified. Users of this product are solely responsible for compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations.

### U.S. FEDERAL REGULATIONS:

EPA (ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY)

CERCLA: COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE, COMPENSATION, AND LIABILITY ACT OF 1980 (40 CFR Parts 117 and 302):

**Reportable Quantity (RQ):** None

SARA: SUPERFUND AMENDMENT AND REAUTHORIZATION ACT:

**SECTIONS 302/304:** Require emergency planning based on Threshold Planning Quantity (TPQ) and release reporting based on Reportable Quantities (RQ) of Extremely Hazardous Substances (EHS) (40 CFR Part 355):

**TPQ:** None

**EHS RQ (40 CFR 355):** None

**SECTIONS 311/312:** Require submission of MSDSs and reporting of chemical inventories with identification of EPA hazard categories. The hazard categories for this product are as follows:

**IMMEDIATE:** No

**PRESSURE:** Yes

**DELAYED:** No

**REACTIVITY:** No

**FIRE:** No

**SECTION 313:** Requires submission of annual reports of release of toxic chemicals that appear in 40 CFR Part 372.

Argon is not subject to reporting under Section 313.

**40 CFR 68: RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR CHEMICAL ACCIDENTAL RELEASE PREVENTION:** Requires development and implementation of risk management programs at facilities that manufacture, use, store, or otherwise handle regulated substances in quantities that exceed specified thresholds.

Argon is not listed as a regulated substance.

**TSCA: TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT:** Argon is listed on the TSCA inventory.

**OSHA: OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION:**

29 CFR 1910.119: PROCESS SAFETY MANAGEMENT OF HIGHLY HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS: Requires facilities to develop a process safety management program based on Threshold Quantities (TQ) of highly hazardous chemicals.

Argon is not listed in Appendix A as a highly hazardous chemical.

**STATE REGULATIONS:**

**CALIFORNIA:** Argon is not listed by California under the SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1986 (Proposition 65).

**PENNSYLVANIA:** Argon is subject to the PENNSYLVANIA WORKER AND COMMUNITY RIGHT-TO-KNOW ACT (35 P.S. Sections 7301-7320).

**16. Other Information**

Read and understand all labels and instructions supplied with all containers of this product.

**ADDITIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH HAZARDS:** Using argon in welding and cutting may create additional hazards:

Read and understand the manufacturer's instructions and the precautionary labels on the products used in welding and cutting. For other safe practices information and a more detailed description of the health hazards of welding and their consequences, ask your welding products supplier for a copy of Praxair's free safety booklet, P-52-529, *Precautions and Safe Practices for Electric Welding and Cutting*, and for other manufacturers' safety publications. For a detailed treatment, get ANSI Z49.1, *Safety In Welding and Cutting and Allied Processes*, published by the American Welding Society (AWS), 550 N.W. Le Jeune Rd., Miami, FL 33126, <http://www.aws.org/>, or see OSHA's Web site at <http://www.osha-slc.gov/SLTC/weldingcuttingbrazing/>. Order AWS documents from Global Engineering Documents, 15 Inverness Way East, Englewood, CO 80112-5710, <http://global.ihs.com/>.

**FUMES AND GASES** can be dangerous to your health and may cause serious lung disease.

- **Keep your head out of fumes. Do not breathe fumes and gases. Use enough ventilation, local exhaust, or both to keep fumes and gases from your breathing zone and the general area. Short-term overexposure to fumes may result in dizziness, nausea, dryness or irritation of nose, throat, and eyes, or other similar discomfort.**

Fumes and gases cannot be classified simply. The amount and type depend on the metal being worked and the process, procedure, equipment, and supplies used. Possible dangerous materials may be found in fluxes, electrodes, and other materials. Get an MSDS for every material you use.

Contaminants in the air may add to the hazard of fumes and gases. One such contaminant, chlorinated hydrocarbon vapors from cleaning and degreasing activities, poses a special risk.

- **Do not use electric arcs in the presence of chlorinated hydrocarbon vapors—highly toxic phosgene may be produced.**

Metal coatings such as paint, plating, or galvanizing may generate harmful fumes when heated. Residues from cleaning materials may also be harmful.

- **Avoid arc operations on parts with phosphate residues (anti-rust, cleaning preparations)—highly toxic phosphine may be produced.**

To find the quantity and content of fumes and gases, you can take air samples. By analyzing these samples, you can find out what respiratory protection you need. One recommended sampling method is to take air from inside the worker's helmet or from the worker's breathing zone. See AWS F1.1, *Methods for Sampling and Analyzing Gases for*

*Welding and Allied Processes*, available from the American Welding Society, 550 N.W. Le Jeune Rd., Miami, FL 33126.

**NOTES TO PHYSICIAN:**

**Acute:** *Gases, fumes, and dusts may cause irritation to the eyes, lungs, nose, and throat. Some toxic gases associated with welding and related processes may cause pulmonary edema, asphyxiation, and death. Acute overexposure may include signs and symptoms such as watery eyes, nose and throat irritation, headache, dizziness, difficulty breathing, frequent coughing, or chest pains.*

**Chronic:** *Protracted inhalation of air contaminants may lead to their accumulation in the lungs, a condition that may be seen as dense areas on chest x-rays. The severity of change is proportional to the length of exposure. The changes seen are not necessarily associated with symptoms or signs of reduced lung function or disease. In addition, the changes on x-rays may be caused by non-work-related factors such as smoking, etc.*

**PROTECTIVE CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT FOR WELDING OPERATIONS:**

**PROTECTIVE GLOVES:** Wear welding gloves.

**EYE PROTECTION:** Wear a helmet or use a face shield with a filter lens. Select lens per ANSI Z49.1. Provide protective screens and flash goggles if needed to protect others; select per OSHA 29 CFR 1910.133.

**OTHER PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT:** Wear hand, head, and body protection. (See ANSI Z49.1.) Worn as needed, these help prevent injury from radiation, sparks, and electrical shock. Minimum protection includes welder's gloves and a face shield. For added protection, consider arm protectors, aprons, hats, shoulder protection, and dark, substantial clothing.

**OTHER HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS OF HANDLING, STORAGE, AND USE: *High-Pressure Gas.*** Use piping and equipment adequately designed to withstand pressures to be encountered. Gas can cause rapid suffocation. Store and use with adequate ventilation at all times. Arcs and sparks can ignite combustible materials. Prevent fires. Refer to NFPA 51B, Standard for Fire Prevention During Welding, Cutting, and Other Hotwork, published by the National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, PO Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269-9101, Telephone (800) 344-3555, <http://www.nfpa.org/catalog/>. Do not strike an arc on the cylinder. The defect produced by an arc burn could lead to cylinder rupture. Never work on a pressurized system. If there is a leak, close the cylinder valve. Blow the system down in a safe and environmentally sound manner in compliance with all federal, state, and local laws; then repair the leak. Never place a compressed gas cylinder where it may become part of an electrical circuit. When using compressed gases in and around electric welding applications, never ground the cylinders. Grounding exposes the cylinders to damage by the electric welding arc.

**Mixtures.** When you mix two or more chemicals, you can 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 evaluate the end product. Chemicals have properties that can cause serious injury or death.

**HAZARD RATING SYSTEMS:****NFPA RATINGS:**

HEALTH = 0  
FLAMMABILITY = 0  
INSTABILITY = 0

**HMIS RATINGS:**

HEALTH = 0  
FLAMMABILITY = 0  
PHYSICAL HAZARD = 3



**NFPA RATINGS:**

SPECIAL

**HMIS RATINGS:**

= SA (CGA recommends this to designate Simple Asphyxiant.)

**STANDARD VALVE CONNECTIONS FOR U.S. AND CANADA:****THREADED:**

0-3000 psig CGA-580

3001-5500 psig CGA-680

5001-7500 psig CGA-677

**PIN-INDEXED YOKE:**

0-3000 psig CGA-960 (Medical Use)

**ULTRA-HIGH-INTEGRITY CONNECTION:**

0-3000 psig CGA-718

Use the proper CGA connections. **DO NOT USE ADAPTERS.** Additional limited-standard connections may apply. See CGA pamphlet V-1 listed below.

Ask your supplier about free Praxair safety literature as referred to in this MSDS and on the label for this product. Further information can be found in the following materials published by the Compressed Gas Association, Inc. (CGA), 4221 Walney Road, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chantilly, VA 20151-2923, Telephone (703) 788-2700, <http://www.cganet.com/Publication.asp>.

- AV-1 *Safe Handling and Storage of Compressed Gases*
- G-11.1 *Commodity Specification for Argon*
- P-1 *Safe Handling of Compressed Gases in Containers*
- P-9 *Inert Gases—Argon, Nitrogen, and Helium*
- SB-2 *Oxygen-Deficient Atmospheres*
- V-1 *Compressed Gas Cylinder Valve Inlet and Outlet Connections*
- *Handbook of Compressed Gases, Fourth Edition*

Praxair asks users of this product to study this MSDS and become aware of product hazards and safety information. To promote safe use of this product, a user should (1) notify employees, agents, and contractors of the information in this MSDS and of any other known product hazards and safety information, (2) furnish this information to each purchaser of the product, and (3) ask each purchaser to notify its employees and customers of the product hazards and safety information.

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The opinions expressed herein are those of qualified experts within Praxair, Inc. We believe that the information contained herein is current as of the date of this Material Safety Data Sheet. Since the use of this information and the conditions of use of the product are not within the control of Praxair, Inc., it is the user's obligation to determine the conditions of safe use of the product.

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