

# Material Safety Data Sheet

# Airgas

Helium

## Section 1. Chemical product and company identification

**Product name** : Helium

**Supplier** : AIRGAS INC., on behalf of its subsidiaries  
259 North Radnor-Chester Road  
Suite 100  
Radnor, PA 19087-5283  
1-610-687-5253

**Product use** : Synthetic/Analytical chemistry.

**Synonym** : helium (dot); Helium-4; He; o-Helium; UN 1046; UN 1963; Liquid Helium; Helium, Refrigerated Liquid

**MSDS #** : 001025

**Date of Preparation/Revision** : 5/6/2013.

**In case of emergency** : 1-866-734-3438

HE UPC300

## Section 2. Hazards identification

**Physical state** : Gas. [Colorless, Odorless Gas, Cryogenic liquid and gas]

**Emergency overview** : WARNING!  
GAS:  
CONTENTS UNDER PRESURE.  
Do not puncture or incinerate container.  
Can cause rapid suffocation.  
May cause severe frostbite.  
LIQUID:  
Extremely cold liquid and gas under pressure.  
Can cause rapid suffocation.  
May cause severe frostbite.  
Do not puncture or incinerate container.  
Contact with rapidly expanding gases or liquids can cause frostbite.

**Routes of entry** : Inhalation

### Potential acute health effects

**Eyes** : Contact with rapidly expanding gas may cause burns or frostbite. Contact with cryogenic liquid can cause frostbite and cryogenic burns.

**Skin** : Contact with rapidly expanding gas may cause burns or frostbite. Contact with cryogenic liquid can cause frostbite and cryogenic burns.

**Inhalation** : Acts as a simple asphyxiant.

**Ingestion** : Ingestion is not a normal route of exposure for gases. Contact with cryogenic liquid can cause frostbite and cryogenic burns.

**Medical conditions aggravated by over-exposure** : Acute or chronic respiratory conditions may be aggravated by overexposure to this gas.

See toxicological information (Section 11)

## Section 3. Composition, Information on Ingredients

| <u>Name</u> | <u>CAS number</u> | <u>% Volume</u> | <u>Exposure limits</u>        |
|-------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Helium      | 7440-59-7         | 100             | Oxygen Depletion [Asphyxiant] |

## Section 4. First aid measures

No action shall be taken involving any personal risk or without suitable training. If it is suspected that fumes are still present, the rescuer should wear an appropriate mask or self-contained breathing apparatus. It may be dangerous to the person providing aid to give mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

- Eye contact** : Check for and remove any contact lenses. Immediately flush eyes with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes, occasionally lifting the upper and lower eyelids. Get medical attention immediately.
- Skin contact** : None expected.
- Frostbite** : Try to warm up the frozen tissues and seek medical attention.
- Inhalation** : Move exposed person to fresh air. If not breathing, if breathing is irregular or if respiratory arrest occurs, provide artificial respiration or oxygen by trained personnel. Loosen tight clothing such as a collar, tie, belt or waistband. Get medical attention immediately.
- Ingestion** : As this product is a gas, refer to the inhalation section.

## Section 5. Fire-fighting measures

- Flammability of the product** : Non-flammable.
- Products of combustion** : No specific data.
- Fire-fighting media and instructions** : Use an extinguishing agent suitable for the surrounding fire.
- Apply water from a safe distance to cool container and protect surrounding area. If involved in fire, shut off flow immediately if it can be done without risk.
- Contains gas under pressure. In a fire or if heated, a pressure increase will occur and the container may burst or explode.
- Special protective equipment for fire-fighters** : Fire-fighters should wear appropriate protective equipment and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) with a full face-piece operated in positive pressure mode.

## Section 6. Accidental release measures

- Personal precautions** : Immediately contact emergency personnel. Keep unnecessary personnel away. Use suitable protective equipment (section 8). Shut off gas supply if this can be done safely. Isolate area until gas has dispersed.
- Environmental precautions** : Avoid dispersal of spilled material and runoff and contact with soil, waterways, drains and sewers.
- Methods for cleaning up** : Immediately contact emergency personnel. Stop leak if without risk. Note: see section 1 for emergency contact information and section 13 for waste disposal.

## Section 7. Handling and storage

- Handling** : High pressure gas. Do not puncture or incinerate container. Use equipment rated for cylinder pressure. Close valve after each use and when empty. Protect cylinders from physical damage; do not drag, roll, slide, or drop. Use a suitable hand truck for cylinder movement.
- Never allow any unprotected part of the body to touch uninsulated pipes or vessels that contain cryogenic liquids. Prevent entrapment of liquid in closed systems or piping without pressure relief devices. Some materials may become brittle at low temperatures and will easily fracture.
- Storage** : Cylinders should be stored upright, with valve protection cap in place, and firmly secured to prevent falling or being knocked over. Cylinder temperatures should not exceed 52 °C (125 °F).
- For additional information concerning storage and handling refer to Compressed Gas Association pamphlets P-1 Safe Handling of Compressed Gases in Containers and P-12 Safe Handling of Cryogenic Liquids available from the Compressed Gas Association, Inc.

## Section 8. Exposure controls/personal protection

**Engineering controls** : Use only with adequate ventilation. Use process enclosures, local exhaust ventilation or other engineering controls to keep worker exposure to airborne contaminants below any recommended or statutory limits.

### Personal protection

- Eyes** : Safety eyewear complying with an approved standard should be used when a risk assessment indicates this is necessary to avoid exposure to liquid splashes, mists or dusts.  
When working with cryogenic liquids, wear a full face shield.
- Skin** : Personal protective equipment for the body should be selected based on the task being performed and the risks involved and should be approved by a specialist before handling this product.
- Respiratory** : Use a properly fitted, air-purifying or air-fed respirator complying with an approved standard if a risk assessment indicates this is necessary. Respirator selection must be based on known or anticipated exposure levels, the hazards of the product and the safe working limits of the selected respirator.  
The applicable standards are (US) 29 CFR 1910.134 and (Canada) Z94.4-93
- Hands** : Chemical-resistant, impervious gloves complying with an approved standard should be worn at all times when handling chemical products if a risk assessment indicates this is necessary.  
Insulated gloves suitable for low temperatures
- Personal protection in case of a large spill** : Self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) should be used to avoid inhalation of the product.

### Product name

helium Oxygen Depletion [Asphyxiant]

Consult local authorities for acceptable exposure limits.

## Section 9. Physical and chemical properties

- Molecular weight** : 4 g/mole
- Molecular formula** : He
- Boiling/condensation point** : -268.9°C (-452°F)
- Melting/freezing point** : -272.2°C (-458°F)
- Critical temperature** : -267.9°C (-450.2°F)
- Vapor density** : 0.14 (Air = 1) Liquid Density@BP: 7.8 lb/ft<sup>3</sup> (125 kg/m<sup>3</sup>)
- Specific Volume (ft<sup>3</sup>/lb)** : 96.1538
- Gas Density (lb/ft<sup>3</sup>)** : 0.0104

## Section 10. Stability and reactivity

- Stability and reactivity** : The product is stable.
- Hazardous decomposition products** : Under normal conditions of storage and use, hazardous decomposition products should not be produced.
- Hazardous polymerization** : Under normal conditions of storage and use, hazardous polymerization will not occur.

## Section 11. Toxicological information

### Toxicity data

**Other toxic effects on humans** : No specific information is available in our database regarding the other toxic effects of this material to humans.

### Specific effects

- Carcinogenic effects** : No known significant effects or critical hazards.
- Mutagenic effects** : No known significant effects or critical hazards.
- Reproduction toxicity** : No known significant effects or critical hazards.

Helium

## Section 12. Ecological information

### Aquatic ecotoxicity

Not available.

Environmental fate : Not available.




Environmental hazards : No known significant effects or critical hazards.

Toxicity to the environment : Not available.

## Section 13. Disposal considerations

Product removed from the cylinder must be disposed of in accordance with appropriate Federal, State, local regulation. Return cylinders with residual product to Airgas, Inc. Do not dispose of locally.

## Section 14. Transport information

| Regulatory information | UN number | Proper shipping name        | Class | Packing group         | Label   | Additional information  |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|-------|-----------------------|---|---|
| DOT Classification     | UN1046    | HELIUM, COMPRESSED          | 2.2   | Not applicable (gas). |    | <b>Limited quantity</b><br>Yes.   |
|                        | UN1963    | Helium, refrigerated liquid |       |                       |   | <b>Packaging instruction</b><br><b>Passenger aircraft</b><br>Quantity limitation:<br>75 kg<br><b>Cargo aircraft</b><br>Quantity limitation:<br>150 kg |
| TDG Classification     | UN1046    | HELIUM, COMPRESSED          | 2.2   | Not applicable (gas). |  | <b>Explosive Limit and Limited Quantity Index</b><br>0.125  |
|                        | UN1963    | Helium, refrigerated liquid |       |                       |   | <b>Passenger Carrying Road or Rail Index</b><br>75  |
| Mexico Classification  | UN1046    | HELIUM, COMPRESSED          | 2.2   | Not applicable (gas). |  | -   |
|                        | UN1963    | Helium, refrigerated liquid |       |                       |   |   |

“Refer to CFR 49 (or authority having jurisdiction) to determine the information required for shipment of the product.”

## Section 15. Regulatory information

### United States

**U.S. Federal regulations** : **United States inventory (TSCA 8b)**: This material is listed or exempted.  
**SARA 302/304/311/312 extremely hazardous substances**: No products were found.  
**SARA 302/304 emergency planning and notification**: No products were found.  
**SARA 302/304/311/312 hazardous chemicals**: helium  
**SARA 311/312 MSDS distribution - chemical inventory - hazard identification**:  
helium: Sudden release of pressure  
**Clean Water Act (CWA) 307**: No products were found.  
**Clean Water Act (CWA) 311**: No products were found.

**Clean Air Act (CAA) 112 regulated flammable substances**: No products were found.  
**Clean Air Act (CAA) 112 regulated toxic substances**: No products were found.

**State regulations** : **Connecticut Carcinogen Reporting**: This material is not listed.  
**Connecticut Hazardous Material Survey**: This material is not listed.  
**Florida substances**: This material is not listed.  
**Illinois Chemical Safety Act**: This material is not listed.  
**Illinois Toxic Substances Disclosure to Employee Act**: This material is not listed.  
**Louisiana Reporting**: This material is not listed.  
**Louisiana Spill**: This material is not listed.  
**Massachusetts Spill**: This material is not listed.  
**Massachusetts Substances**: This material is listed.  
**Michigan Critical Material**: This material is not listed.  
**Minnesota Hazardous Substances**: This material is not listed.  
**New Jersey Hazardous Substances**: This material is listed.  
**New Jersey Spill**: This material is not listed.  
**New Jersey Toxic Catastrophe Prevention Act**: This material is not listed.  
**New York Acutely Hazardous Substances**: This material is not listed.  
**New York Toxic Chemical Release Reporting**: This material is not listed.  
**Pennsylvania RTK Hazardous Substances**: This material is listed.  
**Rhode Island Hazardous Substances**: This material is not listed.

### Canada

**WHMIS (Canada)** : **Class A: Compressed gas**.  
**CEPA Toxic substances**: This material is not listed.  
**Canadian ARET**: This material is not listed.  
**Canadian NPRI**: This material is not listed.  
**Alberta Designated Substances**: This material is not listed.  
**Ontario Designated Substances**: This material is not listed.  
**Quebec Designated Substances**: This material is not listed.

## Section 16. Other information

### United States

**Label requirements** : **GAS**:  
CONTENTS UNDER PRESURE.  
Do not puncture or incinerate container.  
Can cause rapid suffocation.  
May cause severe frostbite.  
**LIQUID**:  
Extremely cold liquid and gas under pressure.  
Can cause rapid suffocation.  
May cause severe frostbite.

### Canada

**Label requirements** : **Class A: Compressed gas**.

**Helium**

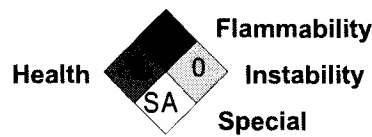
**Hazardous Material Information System (U.S.A.)**

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Health           | 1 |
| Flammability     | 0 |
| Physical hazards | 0 |
|                  |   |

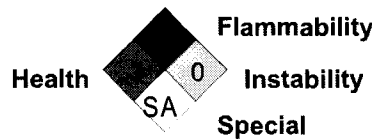
**liquid:**

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Health              | 3 |
| Fire hazard         | 0 |
| Reactivity          | 0 |
| Personal protection |   |

**National Fire Protection Association (U.S.A.)**



**liquid:**



**Notice to reader**

To the best of our knowledge, the information contained herein is accurate. However, neither the above-named supplier, nor any of its subsidiaries, assumes any liability whatsoever for the accuracy or completeness of the information contained herein.

Final determination of suitability of any material is the sole responsibility of the user. All materials may present unknown hazards and should be used with caution. Although certain hazards are described herein, we cannot guarantee that these are the only hazards that exist.