

## Praxair™ Material Safety Data Sheet

### 1. Chemical Product and Company Identification

Product Name:	Argon (MSDS No. P-4563-F)	Trade Name:	Argon
Chemical Name:	Argon	Synonyms:	Shielding Gas, Argon 40
Formula:	Ar	Chemical Family:	(Rare Gas) Noble Gas
Telephone:	Emergencies: 1-800-645-4633* CHEMTREC 1-800-424-9300* Routine: 1-800-PRAXAIR	Company Name:	Praxair, Inc. 39 Old Ridgebury Road Danbury CT 06810-5113

*\*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. Composition / Information on Ingredients

This section covers materials of manufacture only. See sections 10 and 16 for information on by-products generated during use, especially use in welding and cutting. For custom mixtures of this product request a Material Safety Data Sheet for each component. See Section 16 for important information about mixtures.

INGREDIENT NAME	CAS NUMBER	PERCENTAGE	OSHA PEL	ACGIH TLV-TWA
Argon	7440-37-1	>99%*	None currently established	Simple asphyxiant

*\*The symbol ">" means "greater than."*

### 3. Hazards Identification

#### EMERGENCY OVERVIEW

**CAUTION! High-pressure gas.**  
**Can cause rapid suffocation.**  
**May cause dizziness and drowsiness.**  
**Self-contained breathing apparatus may**  
**be required by rescue workers.**  
**Odor: None**

**THRESHOLD LIMIT VALUE:** Simple asphyxiant—ACGIH (1997) recommends a TLV-TWA of 5 mg/m<sup>3</sup> for welding fumes not otherwise classified (NOC) that may be generated during welding with this product. See section 16 for more information on welding hazards.

**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**—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.

**SIGNIFICANT LABORATORY DATA WITH POSSIBLE RELEVANCE TO HUMAN HEALTH HAZARD EVALUATION:** None known.

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

**4. First Aid Measures**

**INHALATION:** 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.

**SWALLOWING:** This product is a gas at normal temperature and pressure.

**EYE CONTACT:** Flush eyes with warm water. Hold the eyelids open and away from the eyeballs to ensure that all surfaces are flushed thoroughly.

**NOTES TO PHYSICIAN:** *There is no specific antidote. This product is inert. Treatment of over-exposure should be directed at the control of symptoms and the clinical condition. Refer to section 16.*

**5. Fire Fighting Measures**

<b>FLASH POINT</b> (test method)	Not applicable	<b>AUTOIGNITION</b> <b>TEMPERATURE</b>	Not applicable
<b>FLAMMABLE LIMITS</b> <b>IN AIR, % by volume</b>	<b>LOWER</b>	Not applicable	<b>UPPER</b> Not applicable

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

**SPECIAL FIRE FIGHTING PROCEDURES:**

**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. On-site fire brigades must comply with OSHA 29 CFR 1910.156.

**UNUSUAL FIRE AND EXPLOSION HAZARDS:** Argon cannot catch fire. 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.)

**HAZARDOUS COMBUSTION PRODUCTS:** None known.

## 6. Accidental Release Measures

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

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

**WASTE DISPOSAL METHOD:** Prevent waste from contaminating the surrounding environment. 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 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.

**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. Open valve slowly. If valve is hard to open, discontinue use and contact your supplier. 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. Never strike an arc on a compressed gas cylinder or make a cylinder part of an electrical circuit. For other precautions in using argon, see section 16.

## 8. Exposure Controls/Personal Protection

### VENTILATION/ENGINEERING CONTROLS:

**LOCAL EXHAUST**—Use a local exhaust system, if necessary, to prevent oxygen deficiency and keep hazardous fumes and gases below applicable TLVs 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 the applicable TLVs in the worker's breathing zone.

**SPECIAL**—None

**OTHER**—None

**RESPIRATORY PROTECTION:** Use air-purifying or air-supplied respirators, as appropriate, where local or general exhaust ventilation is inadequate. Adequate ventilation must keep worker exposure below applicable TLVs for fumes, gases and other by-products of welding with argon. See sections 3, 10, and 16 for details. An air-supplied respirator must be used in confined spaces. Respiratory protection must conform to OSHA rules as specified in 29 CFR 1910.134.

**SKIN PROTECTION:** Wear work gloves when handling cylinders; welding gloves for welding.

**EYE PROTECTION:** Wear safety glasses when handling cylinders. For welding, see section 16.

**OTHER PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT:** 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.

### 9. Physical and Chemical Properties

<b>MOLECULAR WEIGHT:</b> 39.95	<b>EXPANSION RATIO:</b> Not applicable
<b>SPECIFIC GRAVITY (air=1):</b> At 70°F (21.1°C) and 1 atm: 1.38	<b>SOLUBILITY IN WATER:</b> % by wt., vol/vol at 32°F (0°C): 0.056
<b>GAS DENSITY:</b> At 70°F (21.1°C) and 1 atm: 0.103 lbs/ft <sup>3</sup> (1.650 kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	<b>VAPOR PRESSURE:</b> AT 68°F (20°C): Not applicable
<b>PERCENT VOLATILES BY VOLUME:</b> 100	<b>EVAPORATION RATE:</b> Gas, not applicable
<b>BOILING POINT (1 atm):</b> -302.6°F (-185.9°C)	<b>pH:</b> Not applicable
<b>MELTING POINT (1 atm):</b> -308.6°F (-189.2°C)	
<b>APPEARANCE, ODOR, AND STATE:</b> Colorless, odorless, tasteless gas at normal temperature and pressure.	

### 10. Stability and Reactivity

<b>STABILITY:</b>	Unstable		Stable	X
<b>INCOMPATIBILITY (materials to avoid):</b> None currently known. Argon is chemically inert.				
<b>HAZARDOUS DECOMPOSITION PRODUCTS:</b> 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.				
<b>HAZARDOUS POLYMERIZATION:</b>	May Occur		Will Not Occur	X

**CONDITIONS TO AVOID:** None currently known.

### 11. Toxicological Information

Argon is a simple asphyxiant.

### 12. Ecological Information

No adverse ecological effects expected. Argon does not contain any Class I or Class II ozone-depleting chemicals. Argon is not listed as a marine pollutant by DOT.

### 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**

<b>DOT/IMO SHIPPING NAME:</b> Argon, compressed	<b>HAZARD CLASS:</b> 2.2
<b>IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:</b> UN 1006	<b>PRODUCT RQ:</b> Not applicable
<b>SHIPPING LABEL(s):</b> NONFLAMMABLE GAS	<b>PLACARD (When required):</b> NONFLAMMABLE GAS

**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)].

**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 (40 CFR Part 355):

**Threshold Planning Quantity (TPQ):** None.

**Extremely Hazardous Substances (40 CFR 355):** None.

- **SECTIONS 311/312:** Require submission of Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) and chemical inventory reporting with identification of EPA hazard categories. The hazard categories for this products 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 does not require 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:** This product is not listed by California under the Safe Drinking Water Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65).

**PENNSYLVANIA:** This product is subject to the Pennsylvania Worker and Community Right-To-Know Act (35 P.S. Sections 7301-7320).

<b>16. Other Information</b>
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**ADDITIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH HAZARDS:** Using argon in welding and cutting may create additional hazards:

**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 a Material Safety Data Sheet (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 ANSI/AWSF1.1, available from the American Welding Society, 550 N.W. Le Jeune Rd., Miami, FL 33126.

For other safe practices information and a more detailed description of the health hazards of welding and their consequences, see your welding products supplier.

#### **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. Regardless of protective equipment, never touch live electrical parts.

**OTHER HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS OF HANDLING, STORAGE, AND USE:** *Arcs and sparks can ignite combustible materials.* Prevent fires. Refer to NFPA 51B, "Cutting and Welding Processes." *High pressure gas.* Use piping and equipment adequately designed to withstand pressures to be encountered. *Prevent reverse flow.* Reverse flow into cylinder may cause rupture. Use a check valve or other protective device in any line or piping from the cylinder. *Gas can cause rapid suffocation* due to oxygen deficiency. Store and use with adequate ventilation. Close valve after each use; keep closed even when empty. *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 ground a compressed gas cylinder or allow it to become part of an electrical circuit.*

Read and understand the manufacturer's instructions and the precautionary label on the product. See American National Standard Z49.1, "Safety In Welding and Cutting," published by the American Welding Society and OSHA Publication 2206 (29 CFR 1910), U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402 for more details. For further safety and health information, ask your welding products supplier for manufacturers' safety publications.

**MIXTURES:** When you mix two or more gases or liquefied gases, 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.

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

HEALTH = 0

FLAMMABILITY = 0

REACTIVITY = 0

SPECIAL SA (CGA recommends this rating to designate Simple Asphyxiant.)

**HMIS RATINGS:**

HEALTH = 0

FLAMMABILITY = 0

REACTIVITY = 0

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

<b>THREADED:</b>	0-3000 psig	CGA-580
	3001-5500 psig	CGA-680
	5001-7500 psig	CGA-677
<b>PIN-INDEXED YOKE:</b>	0-3000 psig	CGA-960 (Medical Use)
<b>ULTRA-HIGH-INTEGRITY CONNECTION:</b>	0-3000 psig	CGA-718

Use the proper CGA connections. **DO NOT USE ADAPTERS.** See pamphlet CGA V-1 listed below.

Ask your supplier about free Praxair safety literature as referenced on the label for this product; you may also obtain copies by calling 1-800-PRAXAIR. Further information about argon can be found in the following pamphlets published by the Compressed Gas Association, Inc. (CGA), 1725 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202-4102, Telephone (703) 412-0900.

- 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*
- P-14 *Accident Prevention in Oxygen-Rich, Oxygen-Deficient Atmospheres*
- SB-2 *Oxygen-Deficient Atmospheres*
- V-1 *Compressed Gas Cylinder Valve Inlet and Outlet Connections*
- Handbook of Compressed Gases, Third Edition*



Product: Argon

Form No.: P-4563-F

Date: October 1997

Praxair asks users of this product to study this Material Safety Data Sheet (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 on 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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Praxair MSDSs are furnished on sale or delivery by Praxair or the independent distributors and suppliers who package and sell our products. To obtain current Praxair MSDSs for these products, contact your Praxair sales representative or local distributor or supplier. If you have questions regarding Praxair MSDSs, would like the form number and date of the latest MSDS, or would like the names of the Praxair suppliers in your area, phone or write the Praxair Call Center (**Phone:** 1-800-PRAXAIR; **Address:** Praxair Call Center, Praxair, Inc., PO Box 44, Tonawanda, NY 14150-7891).

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