

# Praxair Material Safety Data Sheet

## 1. Chemical Product and Company Identification

<b>Product Name:</b> Argon, refrigerated liquid (MSDS No. P-4564-I)	<b>Trade Names:</b> Liquid Argon
<b>Chemical Name:</b> Argon	<b>Synonyms:</b> Argon (cryogenic liquid)
<b>Chemical Family:</b> Cryogenic liquid	<b>Product Grades:</b> Industrial
<b>Telephone:</b> <b>Emergencies:</b> 1-800-645-4633* <b>CHEMTREC:</b> 1-800-424-9300* <b>Routine:</b> 1-800-PRAXAIR	<b>Company Name:</b> 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. Hazards Identification

### EMERGENCY OVERVIEW

**WARNING! Extremely cold liquid and gas under pressure.**

**Can cause rapid suffocation.**

**Can cause severe frostbite.**

**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 liquid 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 from vapor. Cold gas or liquid may cause severe frostbite.

**Swallowing.** An unlikely route of exposure, but severe frostbite of the lips and mouth may result from contact with the liquid.

**Eye Contact.** No harm expected from vapor. Cold gas or liquid may cause severe frostbite.

**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:** For exposure to liquid, immediately warm frostbite area with warm water not to exceed 105°F (41°C). In case of massive exposure, remove contaminated clothing while showering with warm water. Call a physician.

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

**EYE CONTACT:** Immediately flush eyes thoroughly with warm water for at least 15 minutes. Hold the eyelids open and away from the eyeballs to ensure that all surfaces are flushed thoroughly. See a physician, preferably an ophthalmologist, immediately.

**NOTES TO PHYSICIAN:** *There is no specific antidote. This product is inert. Treatment of overexposure should be directed at the control of symptoms and the clinical condition of the patient.*

### 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: WARNING! Extremely cold liquid and gas under pressure.** Evacuate all personnel from danger area. Immediately deluge cylinders with water from maximum distance until cool, taking care not to direct spray onto vents on top of container. Do not discharge sprays into liquid argon. Liquid argon will rapidly freeze water. When containers have cooled, 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.

**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). Liquid argon cylinders are equipped with a pressure relief device. (Exceptions may exist where authorized by DOT.) Venting vapors may obscure visibility. Liquid causes severe frostbite, a burnlike injury.

**Protective Equipment and Precautions for Firefighters.** Firefighters should wear self-contained breathing apparatus and full fire-fighting turnout gear.

**6. Accidental Release Measures**

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

**WARNING! Extremely cold liquid and gas under pressure.**

**Personal Precautions.** Argon is an asphyxiant. Lack of oxygen can kill. Evacuate all personnel from danger area. Use self-contained breathing apparatus where needed. Extremely cold liquid and gas. Avoid contact with spilled liquid and allow it to evaporate. Liquid causes severe frostbite, a burn-like injury. Shut off leak if without risk. Ventilate area of leak or move container to a well-ventilated area. Test for sufficient oxygen, especially in confined spaces, before allowing reentry.

**Environmental Precautions.** 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 HANDLING:** Never allow any unprotected part of your body to touch uninsulated pipes or vessels containing cryogenic fluids. Flesh will stick to the extremely cold metal and will tear when you try to pull free. Do not get liquid in eyes, on skin, or on clothing. For liquid withdrawal, wear face shield and gloves. Use a suitable hand truck to move containers. Cryogenic containers must be handled and stored in an upright position. Close container valve after each use; keep closed even when empty. Do not drop or tip containers, or roll them on their sides. If valve is hard to open, discontinue use and contact your supplier. For other precautions in using argon, see section 16.

**PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN IN STORAGE:** Store and use with adequate ventilation. Do not store at temperatures above 125°F (52°C). Do not store in a confined space. Cryogenic containers are each equipped with a pressure relief device and a pressure-controlling valve. Under normal conditions, these containers will periodically vent product. Use adequate pressure relief devices in systems and piping to prevent pressure buildup; entrapped liquid can generate extremely high pressures when vaporized by warming.

**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**

COMPONENT	OSHA PEL	ACGIH TLV-TWA (2009)
Argon	N.E.*	Simple asphyxiant

\*N.E.—Not Established.

IDLH = Not available.

### ENGINEERING CONTROLS:

**Local Exhaust.** Use a local exhaust system, if necessary, to prevent oxygen deficiency.

**Mechanical (General).** General exhaust ventilation may be acceptable if it can maintain an adequate supply of air.

**Special.** None

**Other.** None

### PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT:

**Skin Protection.** Wear loose-fitting, cryogenic gloves. Metatarsal shoes for container handling; high-top shoes are preferred. Protective clothing where needed. Cuffless trousers should be worn outside the shoes. Select in accordance with OSHA 29 CFR 1910.132 and 1910.133. Regardless of protective equipment, never touch live electrical parts.

**Eye/Face Protection.** Safety glasses and a full face shield are recommended. Select in accordance with OSHA 29 CFR 1910.133.

**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.

## 9. Physical and Chemical Properties

<b>APPEARANCE:</b>	Colorless liquid
<b>ODOR:</b>	Odorless
<b>ODOR THRESHOLD:</b>	Not available.
<b>PHYSICAL STATE:</b>	Cryogenic liquid 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):	High
<b>EXPANSION RATIO</b> for liquid at boiling point to gas at 70°F (21.1°C):	1 to 841
<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
<b>SOLUBILITY IN WATER</b> , vol/vol at 32°F (0°C) and 1 atm:	0.056

<b>PARTITION COEFFICIENT: n-octanol/water:</b>	Not available.
<b>AUTOIGNITION TEMPERATURE:</b>	Not applicable.
<b>DECOMPOSITION TEMPERATURE:</b>	None
<b>PERCENT VOLATILES BY VOLUME:</b>	100
<b>MOLECULAR WEIGHT:</b>	39.95
<b>MOLECULAR FORMULA:</b>	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:** None known.

**POSSIBILITY OF HAZARDOUS REACTIONS:**  May Occur  Will Not Occur

### 11. Toxicological Information

**ACUTE DOSE EFFECTS:** Argon is a simple asphyxiant.

**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 container in a well-ventilated area or outdoors; then slowly discharge gas to the atmosphere.

### 14. Transport Information

<b>DOT/IMO SHIPPING NAME:</b> Argon, refrigerated liquid			
<b>HAZARD CLASS:</b> 2.2	<b>PACKING GROUP/Zone:</b> NA*	<b>IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:</b> UN1951	<b>PRODUCT RQ:</b> None
<b>SHIPPING LABEL(s):</b> NONFLAMMABLE GAS			
<b>PLACARD (when required):</b> 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.

**OTHER HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS OF HANDLING, STORAGE, AND USE:** *Extremely cold liquid and gas under pressure.* Use piping and equipment adequately designed to withstand pressures to be encountered. Avoid materials incompatible with cryogenic use; some metals such as carbon steel may fracture easily at low temperature. Gas can cause rapid suffocation due to oxygen deficiency. Store and use with adequate ventilation at all times. Praxair recommends piping all vents to the exterior of the building. Never work on a pressurized system. If there is a leak, close the cylinder valve. Blow down the system 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.

**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 = 3  
FLAMMABILITY = 0  
INSTABILITY = 0  
SPECIAL = SA (CGA recommends this to designate Simple Asphyxiant.)

#### HMIS RATINGS:

HEALTH = 3  
FLAMMABILITY = 0  
PHYSICAL HAZARD = 2

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

#### THREADED:

CGA-295 (cryogenic liquid withdrawal)

#### PIN-INDEXED YOKE:

Not applicable.

#### ULTRA-HIGH-INTEGRITY CONNECTION:

Not applicable.

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*
- AV-5 *Safe Handling of Liquefied Nitrogen and Argon*
- G-11.1 *Commodity Specification for Argon*
- 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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Praxair, Inc.  
39 Old Ridgebury Road  
Danbury, CT 06810-5113