

<b>MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET</b>
Title: <b>COMPRESSED PLASMA GAS MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET</b>
Date of Issue: 1 August 2018
Date of Next Review: 1 August 2023

## MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET COMPRESSED PLASMA GAS



### IDENTIFICATION:

**Chemical Name:** Argon and Hydrogen  
**Synonyms:** None  
**UN Number:** 1954  
**Use:** Welding Applications

### HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION:

**Dangerous Goods Class and Subsidiary Risk:** 2.1

**HSNO Classification:** 2.1.1A

**Hazard Statement:**

Extremely flammable gas.  
 Explosive, fire, blast or projectile hazard.

**Precautionary Statements:**

Read label before use.  
 Read Safety Data Sheet before use.  
 Protect from heat, sparks, open flames, hot surfaces and all other ignition sources  
 No Smoking  
 Store in a well-ventilated place.  
 Wear protective gloves and eye protection.

**Leaking gas fire:** Do not extinguish, unless leak can be stopped safely.

Eliminate all ignition sources if safe to do so.  
 Store in a well-ventilated place.  
 Do not subject to any rough handling (grinding/shock/friction/banging).  
 Explosion risk in case of fire.

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Fight fire with normal precautions from a reasonable distance.  
Take precautionary measures against static discharges.

<b>COMPOSITION / INGREDIENTS:</b>
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<b>Chemical Entity</b>	<b>CAS Number</b>	<b>Proportion</b>
Argon	7440-37-1	Balance Gas
Hydrogen	1333-74-0	<40 %

Contains no other components or impurities that will influence the classification of the product.

<b>FIRST AID MEASURES:</b>
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**Health Effects**

**Acute**

Swallowed: Not applicable to gases.

Eye: Not irritating to the eye.

Skin: Not irritating to the skin.

**Inhaled:**

Hydrogen is non-toxic; by diluting the oxygen concentration in air below the level necessary to support life; it can act as an asphyxiant.

Effects of oxygen deficiency are:

**16%:** breathing and pulse rate increased, impaired thinking and attention, reduced coordination;

**14%:** Abnormal fatigue upon exertion, emotional upset, faulty coordination, poor judgement;

**12.5%:** Very poor judgement and coordination, impaired respiration that can cause permanent hearing damage, nausea and vomiting;

**below 10%:** Inability to perform various movements, loss of consciousness, convulsions, and death.

**Chronic:**

Prolonged exposure to an oxygen deficient atmosphere (below 19% oxygen in air) may affect the heart and nervous system.

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**First Aid:**

**Inhalation:**

In high concentrations may cause asphyxiation. Symptoms may include loss of mobility/consciousness.

Remove victim to uncontaminated area whilst wearing self-contained breathing apparatus.

Victim may not be aware of asphyxiation.

Keep victim warm and rested.

Call a doctor. Apply artificial respiration if breathing stopped.

**Advice to Doctor**

Advise doctor that victim has been exposed to an oxygen deficient atmosphere.

**General:**

Rescuers should not enter an oxygen deficient atmosphere without using self-contained full face positive pressure breathing equipment.

Rescue personnel should be aware of extreme fire hazard associated with hydrogen rich atmospheres.

<b>FIRE FIGHTING MEASURES:</b>
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**Flammability:**

Highly flammable gas. Avoid all ignition sources.

**Fire/Explosion Hazard:**

Hydrogen is highly flammable and burns with an almost invisible flame.

Exposure to fire may cause container to rupture/explode.

Cylinders involved in a fire/explosion may rocket.

Move cylinders from vicinity of fire if safe to do so.

Cool cylinders by spraying flooding quantities of water from a protected location.

If unable to keep cylinders cool, evacuate area, minimum distance 200 meters.

Do not extinguish a leaking gas flame unless absolutely necessary.

Spontaneous/explosive re-ignition may occur.

Extinguish any other fire.

**Extinguishing Media:**

Water, Fog or Fine water spray

**Hazchem Code: 2 SE**

**Recommended Protective Clothing:**

Breathing apparatus should be worn

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<b>ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES:</b>
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**Personal Protection:**

Personnel engaged in the movement of cylinders shall be provided with safety footwear, safety glasses and leather or PVC gloves.

Full cover overalls are recommended. In areas where equipment failure may cause an immediate high concentration of hydrogen, ensure adequate ventilation and have approved self-contained, full face respiratory equipment readily available for emergencies.

**Spills and Disposal:**

Ventilate area. Stop leak if it can be done without risk. Allow gas to dissipate to atmosphere. Prevent from entering sewers, basements and workpits, or any place where its accumulation can be dangerous.

**Reference Guide:**

Standard SNZ HB 76:2008 Dangerous Goods – Initial Emergency Response Guide.  
 AS/NZS 1337 – Eye Protection for Industrial Applications  
 AS/NZS 2161.1 – Occupational Protective Gloves – Selection, use and maintenance  
 AS/NZS 1715 – Selection, Use and Maintenance of Respiratory Protective Devices  
 AS/NZS 1716 – Respiratory Protective Devices

**General:**

Only experienced and properly instructed personnel should handle compressed gases. Open valve slowly to avoid pressure shock. Cylinder contents and identification labels provided by the supplier must not be removed or defaced. Colour coding should not be the only criterion used for content identification.

<b>HANDLING AND STORAGE:</b>
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**Handling:**

**Flammability:**

Highly flammable. Avoid all ignition sources.

**General:**

Only experienced and properly instructed personnel should handle compressed gases. Open valve slowly to avoid pressure shock. Cylinder contents and identification labels provided by the supplier must not be removed or defaced. Colour coding should not be the only criterion used for content identification.

**Approved Handlers:**

Approved handlers are required if more than 100 m3 is stored on site.

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**Storage:**

Storage of compressed gas cylinders shall be in compliance with New Zealand HSNO Regulations.

Cylinders will be kept away from ignition sources (including static discharges).

Cylinders shall be stored in a cool, dry, well-ventilated area out of direct sunlight and away from heat and ignition sources.

No part of cylinders shall be exposed to temperatures above 50°C.

Cylinders shall be stored upright on a level, fireproof floor, secured in position and protected from damage.

Full cylinders shall be stored separately from empties.

Cylinders should be moved by hand-truck or cart designed for that purpose.

**Separation:**

Avoid any contact with oil or grease particularly to the cylinder valve.

Keep hydrogen cylinders a minimum of 5 meters away from ignition sources and from incompatible materials (e.g. HSNO classes 1, 3, 4 and 5).

Keep Plasma Gas cylinders a minimum of 5 meters away from edge of the controlled zone.

A controlled zone is an area surrounding a hazardous substance location, beyond the controlled zone members of the public are provided with reasonable protection from adverse events.

**Spills and Disposal:**

Ventilate area. Stop leak if it can be done without risk. Allow gas to dissipate to atmosphere. Prevent from entering sewers, basements and workpits, or any place where its accumulation can be dangerous.

<b>EXPOSURE CONTROLS / PERSONAL PROTECTION:</b>
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**Exposure Standards:**

Hydrogen is a simple asphyxiant.

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**Engineering Controls:**

Provide adequate local exhaust and dilution (general) ventilation and supply sufficient replacement air to maintain oxygen concentration above 19%.

**Personal Protection:**

Personnel engaged in the movement of cylinders shall be provided with safety footwear, safety glasses and leather or PVC gloves.  
Full cover overalls are recommended. In areas where equipment failure may cause an immediate high concentration of hydrogen, ensure adequate ventilation and have approved self-contained, full face respiratory equipment readily available for emergencies.

**Reference Guide:**

AS/NZS 1337 – Eye Protection for Industrial Applications  
AS/NZS 2161.1 – Occupational Protective Gloves – Selection, use and maintenance  
AS/NZS 1715 – Selection, Use and Maintenance of Respiratory Protective Devices  
AS/NZS 1716 – Respiratory Protective Devices

<b>PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES:</b>
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**Physical Properties (Argon is shown first bring the major component, then Hydrogen)**

**Appearance:** Colourless, Odourless, Tasteless

**Flashpoint:** Not Applicable

**Boiling Point:** -185.9 - 253.8°C

**Flammability Limits:** (In air) 4% - 75%

**Vapour Pressure:** Not Applicable

**Solubility in Water (at 0°C):** 0.054 m<sup>3</sup>/kg

**Other Properties**

Relative Density: (Air = 1): 1.38 – 0.0696

Density of Gas: (101.3 kPa, 15°C): 1.691 – 1.312 kg/m<sup>3</sup>

Molecular Weight: 39.948 – 2.016

Critical Temperature: -122.29 - -239.96°C

Auto Ignition Temperature: 560°C

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**STABILITY AND REACTIVITY:**

**Flammability:**

Highly flammable. Spontaneously flammable in air. Avoid all ignition sources.

**Materials Compatibility:**

Plasma Gas is non-corrosive and can be used with all commonly used, non-reactive metals at room temperature and low pressure. At higher pressures, hydrogen causes embrittlement of some materials, particularly cold worked ferritic steels.

Most elastomers are compatible with hydrogen.

**TOXICOLOGY INFORMATION:**

No known toxicological effects from this product.

**ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION:**

No known ecological damage is caused by this product.

**DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

Do not discharge into areas where there is a risk of forming an explosive mixture with air.

Waste gas should be flared through a suitable burner with flash back arrestor.

Do not discharge into any place where its accumulation could be dangerous.

**TRANSPORT INFORMATION:**

**UN Number:** 1954

**Proper Shipping Name:** COMPRESSED GAS, FLAMMABLE, (Argon and Hydrogen)

**Dangerous Goods Class and Subsidiary Risk:** 2.1

**Packing Group:** Not applicable

**Hazchem Code:** 2 SE

**Other Information:**

Avoid transport on vehicles where the load is not separated from the driver's compartment. Ensure vehicle driver is aware of the potential hazards of the load and knows what to do in the event of an accident or an emergency.

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**Before transporting product containers:**

- Ensure that containers are firmly secured
- Ensure cylinder valve is closed and not leaking.
- Ensure there is adequate ventilation.
- Compliance with applicable regulations.

<b>REGULATORY INFORMATION:</b>
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**Environmental Protection Agency Register Approval No:** HSR002532

**HSNO Controls:**

- Hazardous Substances (Classes 1 to 5 Controls) Regulations 2001.
- Hazardous Substances (Disposal) Regulations 2001.
- Hazardous Substances (Personnel Qualifications) Regulations 2001.
- Hazardous Substances (Emergency Management) Regulations 2001.
- Hazardous Substances (Identification) Regulations 2001.
- Hazardous Substances (Compressed Gases) Regulations 2004.
- Hazardous Substances (Tank Wagon and Transportable Containers) Regulations 2004.
- Schedule 10 of the Hazardous Substances (Dangerous Goods and Scheduled Toxic Substances) Transfer Notice 2004.
- Schedule 12 of the Hazardous Substances (Dangerous Goods and Scheduled Toxic Substances) Transfer Notice 2004
- Compressed Gas Mixtures (Flammable) Group Standards 2006

**Approved Handlers:** Approved handlers are required if more than 100 m3 is stored on site.

<b>OTHER INFORMATION:</b>
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Compressed Plasma Gas is supplied in high pressure cylinders.

**Cylinder Colour:**

**Industrial:** AS2700 –Peacock Blue Body (T53) with Signal Red shoulders and neck (R13)

**Cylinder Valve Outlet:**

**Industrial:** AS 2473.2 Type 20 (Flammable Gas Valve)

**References:**

- NZS 5433:2007 Transport of Dangerous Goods on Land
- EPA Website – Approvals Register – [www.epa.govt.nz](http://www.epa.govt.nz)
- SNZ HB76:2008 Dangerous Goods – Initial Emergency Response Guide
- AS1678 2C1 Emergency Procedure Guide – Transport – Non-Flammable, Compressed Gas
- AS 4484-2004 - Gas Cylinders for Industrial, Scientific, medical and refrigerant use -

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Labelling and colour coding

AS 2473.2-2007 - Valves for compressed gas outlets - Part 2 Outlet connections (threaded) and stem (inlet) threads

AS 2473.3-2007 - Valves for compressed gas outlets - Part 3 Outlet connections for medical gases (including pin-indexed yoke connections)

Operators Handbook for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road – NZ Road Transport & Logistics Industry Training Organisation

NZCIC Code of Practice – Preparation of Safety Data Sheets

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<b>MSDS SUMMARY:</b>
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This MSDS summarises to our best knowledge, at the date of issue, the health and safety hazard information regarding this product and general guidance on how to safely handle the product in the workplace. All due care has been taken to include accurate and up-to-date information in this MSDS.

Each user should read this MSDS and consider the information in the context of how the product will be handled and used in the workplace in conjunction with other products. If clarification or further information is needed to ensure that an appropriate risk assessment can be made, the user should contact Southern Gas Services Limited.

As far as lawfully possible, no liability for any loss, injury or damage (including consequential loss) which may be suffered or incurred by any person as a consequence of their reliance on the information contained in this MSDS can be accepted.

Our responsibility for products sold is subject to our standard terms and conditions, a copy of which is available on request.

This MSDS has been prepared in accordance with NZCIC Code of Practice – Preparation of Safety Data Sheets.

This MSDS is subject to change without notice.

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