

<b>MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET</b>
Title: <b>COMPRESSED SOUTHERN SHIELD AR HE MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET</b>
Date of Issue: 1 October 2021
Date of Next Review: 1 October 2026

## MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET COMPRESSED SOUTHERN SHIELD® AR HE



### IDENTIFICATION:

**Chemical Name:** Argon and Helium  
**Synonyms:** Southern Shield Aluminium, Southern Shield Stainless  
**UN Number:** 1956  
**Use:** Inert shielding gas for Aluminium welding applications.

### HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION:

**Dangerous Goods Class and Subsidiary Risk:** 2.2

**HSNO Classification:** Not Hazardous

**Hazard Statement:**  
 Contains gas under pressure; may explode if heated.

**Precautionary Statements:**  
 Read label before use.  
 Read Safety Data Sheet before use.  
 Protect from sunlight and heat.  
 Store in a well-ventilated place.  
 Wear protective gloves and eye protection.

### COMPOSITION / INGREDIENTS:

Chemical Entity	CAS Number	Proportion
Argon	7440-37-1	0 - 99%
Helium	7440-59-7	0 - 99%

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

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<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: Southern Shield is non-toxic at normal temperature and pressure.

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 hear damage, nausea and vomiting;

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

**Chronic**

Long term exposure to Southern Shield has no known health effects.

**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.



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

Non Flammable.

**Fire/Explosion Hazard:**

Non-flammable, however 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.

**Extinguishing Media:**

Use appropriate media to extinguish source of surrounding fire. Cool cylinders with water if possible.

**Hazchem Code:** 2 T

<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

**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.

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: Non Flammable.

**General:**

Only experienced and properly instructed personnel should handle compressed gases.

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.



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**Approved Handlers:** Approved handlers are not required, non-hazardous gas (HSNO).

**Approved Fillers:** If you fill a compressed gas cylinder you must be an Approved Filler.

**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.

Southern Shield can be stored with most common substances.

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

Southern Shield is a simple asphyxiant. Ensure adequate ventilation.

**Engineering Controls:**

Do not allow back feed into the cylinder.

Use only properly specified equipment which is suitable for this product, its supply pressure and temperature.

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 Argon, ensure adequate ventilation and have approved self-contained, full face respiratory equipment readily available for emergencies.

Equipment employed shall be designed to withstand process pressure and temperature.

**Reference Guide:**

AS/NZS 1337 – Eye Protection for Industrial Applications

AS/NZS 2161.1 – Occupational Protective Gloves – Selection, use and maintenance



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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, then Helium)**

**Appearance:** Colourless, Odourless, Tasteless

**Flashpoint:** Non Flammable

**Boiling Point:** Not Applicable

**Flammability Limits:** Non Flammable

**Vapour Pressure:** Not Applicable

**Solubility in Water (at 0°C):** Not Applicable

**Other Properties**

Relative Density: (Air = 1): 1.38

Density of Gas: (101.3 kPa, 15°C): 1.691 - 169 kg/m<sup>3</sup>

Molecular Weight: 39.928 - 4

Critical Temperature: Not Applicable.

<b>STABILITY AND REACTIVITY:</b>
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**Flammability:**

Southern Shield is non- flammable.

**Materials Compatibility:** Not applicable.

**Stability:** Stable under normal conditions

<b>TOXICOLOGY INFORMATION:</b>
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No known toxicological effects from this product.

<b>ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION:</b>
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No known ecological damage caused by this product.

<b>DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS:</b>
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Do not discharge into any place where its accumulation could be dangerous. Discharge to atmosphere in a well-ventilated place.



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<b>TRANSPORT INFORMATION:</b>
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**UN Number:** 1956

**Proper Shipping Name:** COMPRESSED GAS, N.O.S (Argon and Helium)

**Dangerous Goods Class and Subsidiary Risk:** 2.2

**Packing Group:** Not applicable

**Hazchem Code:** 2 T

**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.

**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:** HSR002533

**HSNO Controls:**

Hazardous Substances (Compressed Gases) Regulations 2004.

Hazardous Substances (Tank Wagon and Transportable Containers) Regulations 2004.

**Approved Handlers:** Approved handlers are not required, non-hazardous gas (HSNO).

**Approved Fillers:** If you fill a compressed gas cylinder you must be an Approved Filler.

<b>OTHER INFORMATION:</b>
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Compressed Southern Shield is supplied in high pressure cylinders.

**Cylinder Colour:**

**Industrial:** AS2700 – Peacock Blue body,( T53) with Brown shoulders and neck (X54)

**Cylinder Valve Outlet:**

**Industrial:** AS 2473.2 Type 10

**References:**

NZS 5433:2007 Transport of Dangerous Goods on Land

EPA Website – Approvals Register – [www.epa.govt.nz](http://www.epa.govt.nz)



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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 -  
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

#### **MSDS SUMMARY:**

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.