

Material Safety Data Sheet



Helium (Gas/Liquid)

Section 1. Chemical product and company identification

Commercial name(s) : Helium/Helium for balloons
Material uses : Various.
Supplier/Manufacturer : Air Liquide Canada Inc. 1250, René-Lévesque West, Suite 1700,
Montreal, QC H3B 5E6
In case of emergency : (514) 878-1667

Section 2. Hazards identification

Physical state : Gas or liquefied gas.
Emergency overview : CAUTION!
HIGH PRESSURE GAS. GAS REDUCES OXYGEN AVAILABLE FOR BREATHING.
Keep away from heat (<52°C/125°F). Use only with adequate ventilation. Extremely hazardous gas/liquid under pressure. Keep cylinder valve closed when the product is not used. Gas may accumulate in confined areas.

Routes of entry : Inhalation. Dermal contact. Eye contact.
Potential acute health effects
Inhalation : Inhalation of this product may cause dizziness, an irregular heartbeat, narcosis, nausea or asphyxiation.
NEVER INHALED, OR ALLOW TO BE INHALED, EVEN FOR A SHORT PERIOD, HELIUM CONTAINED IN A BALLOON, A GAS CONTAINER OR FILLING EQUIPMENT. INHALATION CAN CAUSE DEATH OR SEVERE DAMAGES.

Skin : Dermal contact with a rapidly evaporating liquid could result in freezing of the tissues or frostbite.

Eyes : Liquid or rapidly evolving gas can cause burns similar to frostbite.

Ingestion : Since the product is a gas, it will probably be inhaled rather than ingested. Consider first the preventive measures in case of inhalation. Ingestion of liquid can cause burns similar to frostbite.

Potential chronic health effects : **CARCINOGENIC EFFECTS**: Not available.
MUTAGENIC EFFECTS: Not available.
TERATOGENIC EFFECTS: Not available.

Medical conditions aggravated by over-exposure : None known.

See toxicological information (Section 11)

Section 3. Composition, Information on Ingredients

	CAS number	mole %
Canada Helium	7440-59-7	> 97.5

This material is classified hazardous under the WHMIS Controlled Product Regulation in Canada.
See Chapters 8, 11, 14 and 15 for details.

Section 4. First aid measures

Prompt medical attention is mandatory in all cases of overexposure to this gas. Rescue personnel should wear a self-contained breathing apparatus.

- Inhalation** : In case of inhalation, conscious persons should be assisted to an uncontaminated area and inhale fresh air. The person should be kept warmed and calm. Quick removal from the contaminated area is most important. Unconscious persons should be moved to an uncontaminated area, given assisted resuscitation and supplemental oxygen. Further treatment should be symptomatic and supportive.
- Skin contact** : Remove contaminated clothing and rinse affected skin with lukewarm water. Do not rinse with hot water. Provide medical prompt attention, frozen tissue is painless and appear waxy, with a possible yellow color. Frozen tissue will become swollen, painful and prone to infection when thawed.
- Eye contact** : Individual in contact with a gas should not wear contact lenses. Check for and remove any contact lenses. In case of contact, immediately flush eyes with plenty of water for at least 20 minutes. Get medical attention if symptoms occur.
- Ingestion** : Since the product is a gas, it will probably be inhaled rather than ingested. Consider first the preventive measures in case of inhalation.
- Notes to physician** : The medical doctor must be warned that the person may suffer from anoxia.

Section 5. Fire-fighting measures

- Flammability of the product** : Non-flammable.
- Products of combustion** : No specific data.
- Explosion hazards in the presence of various substances** : Container explosion may occur under fire conditions or when heated.
- Fire-fighting media and instructions** : Use an extinguishing agent suitable for the surrounding fire.

Promptly isolate the scene by removing all persons from the vicinity of the incident if there is a fire. No action shall be taken involving any personal risk or without suitable training. Contact supplier immediately for specialist advice. Move containers from fire area if this can be done without risk. Use water spray to keep fire-exposed containers cool.

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** : EVACUATE ALL PERSONNEL FROM AFFECTED AREA. Use appropriate protective equipment. If leak is in user's equipment, be certain to purge piping with an inert gas prior to attempting repairs. If leak is on container or container valve, contact the closest Air Liquide Canada location.
- Environmental precautions** : Ensure emergency procedures to deal with accidental gas releases are in place to avoid contamination of the environment. Inform the relevant authorities if the product has caused environmental pollution (sewers, waterways, soil or air).
- 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** : Valve protection caps must remain in place unless cylinder is secured with valve outlet piped to usage point. Do not drag, slide or roll cylinders. Use a suitable hand truck for cylinder movement. Use a pressure regulator when connecting cylinder to lower pressure piping or systems. Do not heat cylinder by any means to increase the discharge rate of product from the cylinder. Use a check valve or trap in the discharge line to prevent hazardous back flow to the cylinder. Do not tamper with (valve) safety device. Close valve after each use and when empty.
- Storage** : Protect cylinders from physical damage. Store in cool, dry, well-ventilated area of non combustible construction away from heavily trafficked areas and emergency exits. Do not allow the temperature where cylinders are stored to exceed 52°C/125°F. Cylinders must be stored upright and firmly secured to prevent falling or being knocked over. Full and empty cylinders should be segregated. Use a "first in - first out" inventory system to prevent full cylinders being stored for excessive periods of time. Post "No Smoking or Open Flames" signs in the storage or use area. There should be no source of ignition in the storage or use area.

Section 8. Exposure controls/personal protection

- Engineering controls** : Use only in well-ventilated areas. Welding or brazing may produce fumes and gases that are hazardous to human health. Short-term (acute) overexposure to these products may cause discomforts, vertigo, nausea or dryness of the nose, mouth and eyes. Long-term (chronic) overexposure may affect the pulmonary function. Avoid breathing these gases and fumes.
- Personal protection**
- Respiratory** : 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.
- Hands** : Wear suitable gloves for the application.
- Eyes** : Safety glasses with side shields.
Face shield with radiation shielding. (Depending on the application).
- Skin/Body** : Wear appropriate personal protective suit.
Metal cap, safety shoes are recommended when handling cylinders.
Not available.



Some applications of this product may require additional or other specific protective clothings. Please consult your supervisor.

- Personal protection in case of a major leak** : Safety glasses, goggles or face shield. Impervious gloves. Full suit. Metal cap, safety boots. Wear MSHA/NIOSH-approved self-contained breathing apparatus or equivalent and full protective gear.

Occupational exposure limits		TWA (8 hours)			STEL (15 mins)			Ceiling		
Ingredient	List name	ppm	mg/m³	Other	ppm	mg/m³	Other	ppm	mg/m³	Other
Helium	Simple asphyxiant.									

Consult local authorities for acceptable exposure limits.

Section 9. Physical and chemical properties

Physical state	: Gas or liquefied gas.
Color	: Colorless.
Odor	: Odorless.
Molecular weight	: 4 g/mole
Molecular formula	: He
Boiling/condensation point	: -268.9°C (-452°F)
Melting/freezing point	: -272.25°C (-458°F)
Specific gravity	: 0.15
Vapor density	: 0.14 [Air = 1]

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

Acute toxicity

Acute Effects

Inhalation	: Inhalation of this product may cause dizziness, an irregular heartbeat, narcosis, nausea or asphyxiation. NEVER INHALED, OR ALLOW TO BE INHALED, EVEN FOR A SHORT PERIOD, HELIUM CONTAINED IN A BALLOON, A GAS CONTAINER OR FILLING EQUIPMENT. INHALATION CAN CAUSE DEATH OR SEVERE DAMAGES.
Skin	: Dermal contact with a rapidly evaporating liquid could result in freezing of the tissues or frostbite.
Eyes	: Liquid or rapidly evolving gas can cause burns similar to frostbite.
Ingestion	: Since the product is a gas, it will probably be inhaled rather than ingested. Consider first the preventive measures in case of inhalation. Ingestion of liquid can cause burns similar to frostbite.
Potential chronic health effects	: CARCINOGENIC EFFECTS: Not available. MUTAGENIC EFFECTS: Not available. TERATOGENIC EFFECTS: Not available.

Section 12. Ecological information

Aquatic ecotoxicity




Products of degradation	: This gas is released as is in the atmosphere.
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Section 13. Disposal considerations

Disposal	: Do not attempt to dispose of the container or of its content. Return in the shipping container properly labeled, with any valve outlet plugs or caps secured and valve protection cap in place to Air Liquide Canada for proper disposal. For emergency disposal, contact the closest Air Liquide Canada location.
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Section 14. Transport information

NAERG : 121

Regulatory information	UN number	Proper shipping name	Classes	PG*	Label
TDG Classification	GAS: UN1046 LIQUID: UN1963	HELIUM, COMPRESSED HELIUM, REFRIGERATED LIQUID	2.2 2.2	-	
IMDG Class	GAS: UN1046 LIQUID: UN1963	HELIUM, COMPRESSED HELIUM, REFRIGERATED LIQUID	2.2 2.2	-	
IATA-DGR Class	GAS: UN1046 LIQUID: UN1963	HELIUM, COMPRESSED HELIUM, REFRIGERATED LIQUID	2.2 2.2	-	

PG* : Packing group

Additional information

Cylinders should be transported in a secure position, in a well ventilated vehicle. The transportation of compressed gas cylinders in automobiles or in closed-body vehicles can present serious safety hazards and should be discouraged.

UN

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TDG

Explosive Limit and Limited Quantity Index
0.12

Passenger Carrying Road or Rail Index
75

IMDG

Emergency schedules (EmS)
F-C, S-V

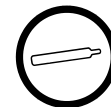
IATA

Passenger and Cargo Aircraft
Quantity limitation: 75 kg
Packaging instructions: 200
Cargo Aircraft OnlyQuantity limitation: 150 kg
Packaging instructions: 200
Limited Quantities - Passenger AircraftQuantity limitation: Forbidden
Packaging instructions: Forbidden

Section 15. Regulatory information

Canada**WHMIS (Canada)**

: Class A: Compressed gas.

**Canadian lists**

: **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.

Canada inventory (DSL/NDL)

: This material is listed or exempted.

Section 16. Other information

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

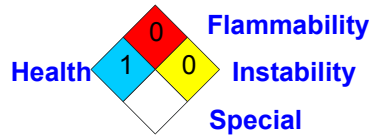
Gas.	
Health	1
Fire hazard	0
Physical Hazard	0
Personal protection	G

Liquid.	
Health	3
Fire hazard	0
Physical Hazard	0
Personal protection	X

HAZARD RATINGS

4- Extreme
3- Serious
2- Moderate
1- Slight
0- Minimal

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



See section 8 for more detailed information on personal protection.

References

- : ANSI Z400.1, MSDS Standard, 2004. - Manufacturer's Material Safety Data Sheet. - Canada Gazette Part II, Vol. 122, No. 2. Registration SOR/88-64, 31 December 1987.
- Hazardous Products Act "Ingredient Disclosure List" - Canadian Transport of Dangerous Goods, Regulations and Schedules, Clear Language version 2005.
- CGA C-7 Guide to the Preparation of Precautionary Labels and Marking of Compressed Gas Containers.
- CGA P-20 Standard for Classification of Toxic Gas Mixtures.
- CGA P-23 Standard for Categorizing Gas Mixtures Containing Flammable and Nonflammable Components.

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