

# SAFETY DATA SHEET

SDS Number: 061A

## HELIUM

### 1. PRODUCT AND COMPANY IDENTIFICATION

Product Name : Helium  
Chemical formula : He  
Synonyms : Helium, Helium gas, Gaseous Helium, Balloon Gas  
Use of the substance/preparation : General Industrial  
Manufacturer/Importer/Distributor : Air Products South Africa (Pty) Ltd.  
Silver Stream Business Park, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Building 3,  
10 Muswell Road South,  
Bryanston, 2191  
Telephone : +27 (0)11 570 5000 (Head Office)  
+27 (0)11 977 6444 (Customer Care Cylinders)  
0800 023 298 (Engineering / Bulk Services)  
Emergency telephone Number (24h) : 0800 650 315

### 2. COMPOSITION / INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS

| <u>Components</u> | <u>CAS Number</u> | <u>Concentration (Volume)</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Helium            | 7440-59-7         | 100 %                         |

Concentration is nominal. For the exact product composition, please refer to Air Products technical specifications.

### 3. HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION

#### Main Hazard / Emergency Overview

High pressure gas.

Simple asphyxiant - Can cause rapid suffocation.

Self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) may be required.

#### Potential Health Effects

Inhalation : In high concentrations may cause asphyxiation. Asphyxiation may bring about unconsciousness without warning and so rapidly that victim may be unable to protect themselves.

Eye contact : No adverse effect.

Skin contact : No adverse effect.

Ingestion : Ingestion is not considered a potential route of exposure.  
Chronic Health Hazard : Not applicable.  
Aggravated Medical Condition : None.  
Symptoms : Exposure to oxygen deficient atmosphere may cause the following symptoms: Dizziness. Salivation. Nausea. Vomiting. Loss of mobility/consciousness.

#### Environmental Effects

Not harmful.

### 4. FIRST AID MEASURES

General advice : Remove victim to uncontaminated area wearing self contained breathing apparatus. Keep victim warm and rested. Call a doctor. Apply artificial respiration if breathing stopped.  
Eye contact : Not applicable.  
Skin contact : Not applicable.  
Ingestion : Ingestion is not considered a potential route of exposure.  
Inhalation : Remove to fresh air. If breathing has stopped or is labored, give assisted respirations. Supplemental oxygen may be indicated. If the heart has stopped, trained personnel should begin cardiopulmonary resuscitation immediately. In case of shortness of breath, give oxygen.

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## 5. FIRE-FIGHTING MEASURES

- Suitable extinguishing media : All known extinguishing media can be used.
- Specific hazards : Upon exposure to intense heat or flame, cylinder will vent rapidly and or rupture violently. Product is nonflammable and does not support combustion. Move away from container and cool with water from a protected position. Keep containers and surroundings cool with water spray.
- Special protective equipment for fire-fighters : Wear self contained breathing apparatus for fire fighting if necessary.

## 6. ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES

- Personal precautions : Evacuate personnel to safe areas. Wear self-contained breathing apparatus when entering area unless atmosphere is proved to be safe. Monitor oxygen level. Ventilate the area.
- Environmental precautions : Do not discharge into any place where its accumulation could be dangerous. Prevent further leakage or spillage if safe to do so.
- Methods for cleaning up : Ventilate the area.
- Additional advice : If possible, stop flow of product. Increase ventilation to the release area and monitor oxygen level. If leak is from cylinder or cylinder valve, call the Air Products emergency telephone number. If the leak is in the user's system, close the cylinder valve, safely vent the pressure, and purge with an inert gas before attempting repairs.

## 7. HANDLING AND STORAGE

### Handling

Protect cylinders from physical damage; do not drag, roll, slide or drop. Do not allow storage area temperature to exceed 50°C. Only experienced and properly instructed persons should handle compressed gases. Before using the product, determine its identity by reading the label. Know and understand the properties and hazards of the product before use. When doubt exists as to the correct handling procedure for a particular gas, contact the supplier. Do not remove or deface labels provided by the supplier for the identification of the cylinder contents. When moving cylinders, even for short distances, use a cart (trolley, hand truck, etc.) designed to transport cylinders. Do not remove valve guards. Before connecting the container, check the complete gas system for suitability, particularly for pressure rating and materials. Before connecting the

container for use, ensure that back feed from the system into the container is prevented. Ensure the complete gas system is compatible for pressure rating and materials of construction. Ensure the complete gas system has been checked for leaks before use. Employ suitable pressure regulating devices on all containers when the gas is being emitted to systems with lower pressure rating than that of the container.

Open valve slowly. If user experiences any difficulty operating cylinder valve discontinue use and contact supplier. Close container valve after each use and when empty, even if still connected to equipment. Never attempt to repair or modify container valves or safety relief devices. Damaged valves should be reported immediately to the supplier. Close valve after each use and when empty. Do not subject containers to abnormal mechanical shocks which may cause damage to their valve or safety devices. Never attempt to lift a cylinder by its valve guard. Do not use containers as rollers or supports or for any other purpose than to contain the gas as supplied. Never strike an arc on a compressed gas cylinder or make a cylinder a part of an electrical circuit. Do not smoke while handling product or cylinders. Never re-compress a gas or a gas mixture without first consulting the supplier. Never attempt to transfer gases from one cylinder/container to another. Always use backflow protective device in piping. Never use direct flame or electrical heating devices to raise the pressure of a container. Containers should not be subjected to temperatures above 50°C. Prolonged periods of cold temperature below -30°C should be avoided.

### Storage

Full containers should be stored so that oldest stock is used first. Containers should be stored in a purpose built compound which should be well ventilated, preferably in the open air. Stored containers should be periodically checked for general condition and leakage. Observe all regulations and local requirements regarding storage of containers. Protect containers stored in the open against rusting and extremes of weather. Containers should not be stored in conditions likely to encourage corrosion. Containers should be stored in the vertical position and properly secured to prevent toppling. The container valves should be tightly closed and where appropriate valve outlets should be capped or plugged. Container valve guards or caps should be in place. Keep containers tightly closed in a cool, well-ventilated place. Store containers in location free from fire risk and away from sources of heat and ignition. Full and empty cylinders should be segregated. Do not allow storage temperature to exceed 50°C. Return empty containers in a timely manner.

### Technical measures/Precautions

Containers should be segregated in the storage area according to the various categories (e.g. flammable, toxic, etc.) and in accordance with local regulations. Keep away from combustible material.

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## 8. EXPOSURE CONTROLS / PERSONAL PROTECTION

### Engineering measures

Provide natural or mechanical ventilation to prevent oxygen deficient atmospheres below 19.5% oxygen.

### Personal protective equipment

- Respiratory protection : Self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) or positive pressure airline with mask are to be used in oxygen-deficient atmosphere. Air purifying respirators will not provide protection. Users of breathing apparatus must be trained.
- Hand protection : Sturdy work gloves are recommended for handling cylinders. The breakthrough time of the selected glove(s) must be greater than the intended use period.
- Eye protection : Safety glasses recommended when handling cylinders.
- Skin and body protection : Safety shoes are recommended when handling cylinders.
- Special instructions for protection and hygiene : Ensure adequate ventilation, especially in confined areas.
- Remarks : Simple asphyxiant.

## 9. PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

- Form : Compressed gas
- Color : Colorless gas
- Odor : No odor warning properties
- Molecular Weight : 4 g/mol
- Relative vapor density : 0.138 (air = 1)
- Vapor pressure : Not applicable
- Density : 0.0002 g/cm<sup>3</sup> at 21 °C Note: (as vapor)
- Specific Volume : 6.0349 m<sup>3</sup>/kg at 21 °C
- Boiling point/range : -268.9 °C
- Critical temperature : -267.9 °C
- Melting point/range : Not applicable
- Water solubility : 0.0015 g/l

## 10. STABILITY AND REACTIVITY

- Stability : Stable under normal conditions.
- Hazardous decomposition products : None.

## 11. TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION

### Acute Health Hazard

- Ingestion : No data is available on the product itself.
- Inhalation : No data is available on the product itself.
- Skin : No data is available on the product itself.

## 12. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

### Ecotoxicity effects

- Aquatic toxicity : No data is available on the product itself.
- Toxicity to other organisms : No data available.

### Persistence and degradability

- Mobility : No data available.
- Bioaccumulation : No data is available on the product itself.

### Further information

No ecological damage caused by this product.

## 13. DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Waste from residues / unused products : Contact supplier if guidance is required. Return unused product in original cylinder to supplier.
- Contaminated packaging : Return cylinder to supplier.

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## 14. TRANSPORT INFORMATION

### ADR

Proper shipping name : HELIUM, COMPRESSED  
Class : 2.2  
UN/ID No. : UN1046  
Class : 2  
ADR/RID Hazard ID no. : 20

### IATA

Proper shipping name : Helium, compressed  
Class : 2.2  
UN/ID No. : UN1046

### IMDG

Proper shipping name : HELIUM, COMPRESSED  
Class : 2.2  
UN/ID No. : UN1046

### RID

Proper shipping name : HELIUM, COMPRESSED  
Class : 2.2  
UN/ID No. : UN1046

### Further Information

Avoid transport on vehicles where the load space 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. The transportation information is not intended to convey all specific regulatory data relating to this material. For complete transportation information, contact an Air Products customer service representative.

## 15. REGULATORY INFORMATION

OHS Act : Occupational Health and Safety Act 85 of 1993 (and Regulations)  
SANS 10265 : The classification and labelling of dangerous substances and preparations for sale and handling  
SANS 10019 : Transportable containers for compressed, dissolved and liquefied gases – Basic design, manufacture, use and maintenance  
SANS 1518 : Transport of dangerous goods – Design, construction, testing, approval and maintenance of road vehicles and portable tanks  
SANS 10228 : The identification and classification of dangerous goods for transport  
SANS 10229-1&2 : Transport of dangerous goods – Packaging and large packaging for road and rail transport Part 1: Packaging / Part 2: Large Packaging  
SANS 10263-2 : The warehousing of dangerous goods Part 2: The storage and handling of gas cylinders

*NB: Refer to latest edition*

## 16. OTHER INFORMATION

R-phrases : Not a hazardous substance in accordance with SANS 10265:1999

Ensure all national/local regulations are observed.

Details given in this document are believed to be correct at the time of going to press. Whilst proper care has been taken in the preparation of this document, no liability for injury or damage resulting from its use can be accepted.

(Reference [www.airproducts.com](http://www.airproducts.com) :- Air Products PLC Helium  
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