

Praxair Material Safety Data Sheet

1. Chemical Product and Company Identification

Product Name: Helium, compressed (MSDS No. P-4602-G)

Trade Names: Helium, LaserStar™ Helium, Medipure® Helium, UltraLift® Helium

Chemical Name: Helium

Synonyms: Helium-4, refrigerant gas R-704

Chemical Family: Rare gas

Product Grades: Industrial; Ultralift; 6.0 research/chromatographic; 5.5 ECD, trace analytical; 5.0 UHP; 4.7, 5.0, 5.5 LaserStar; 4.6 zero, oxygen-free; 5.0 methanizer FID gas; 4.5; 5.0, 5.5, 6.0 semiconductor process gas

Telephone: **Emergencies:** 1-800-645-4633*

Company Name: Praxair, Inc.

CHEMTREC: 1-800-424-9300*

39 Old Ridgebury Road

Routine: 1-800-PRAXAIR

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

CAUTION! High-pressure gas.

Can cause rapid suffocation.

May cause dizziness and drowsiness.

Self-contained breathing apparatus may be required by rescue workers.

Under ambient conditions, this is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas.

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.

Swallowing. This product is a gas at normal temperature and pressure.

Eye Contact. No harm expected.

Effects of Repeated (Chronic) Overexposure. No harm expected.

Other Effects of Overexposure. Helium is an asphyxiant. Lack of oxygen can kill.

Medical Conditions Aggravated by Overexposure. The toxicology and the physical and chemical properties of helium suggest that overexposure is unlikely to aggravate existing medical conditions.

CARCINOGENICITY: Helium 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

This section covers materials of manufacture only. See sections 8, 10, 11, and 16 for information on by-products generated during use in welding and cutting. See section 16 for important information about mixtures.

COMPONENT	CAS NUMBER	CONCENTRATION
Helium	7440-59-7	>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: An unlikely route of exposure. This product is a gas at normal temperature and pressure.

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

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

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: Helium cannot catch fire. Use media appropriate for surrounding fire.

PRODUCTS OF COMBUSTION: Not applicable.

PROTECTION OF FIREFIGHTERS: CAUTION! High-pressure gas. Evacuate all personnel from danger area. Immediately deluge cylinders with water from maximum distance until cool; then 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). Helium cylinders are equipped with a pressure relief device. (Exceptions may exist where authorized by DOT.)

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:

CAUTION! High-pressure gas.

Personal Precautions. Helium is an asphyxiant. Lack of oxygen can kill. Evacuate all personnel from danger area. Use self-contained breathing apparatus where needed. Shut off leak if without risk. Ventilate area of leak or move cylinder 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: *Protect cylinders from damage.* Use a suitable hand truck to move cylinders; do not drag, roll, slide, or drop. **Never attempt to lift a cylinder by its cap;** the cap is intended solely to protect the valve. Never insert an object (e.g., wrench, screwdriver, pry bar) into cap openings; doing so may damage the valve and cause a leak. Use an adjustable strap wrench to remove over-tight or rusted caps. **Open valve slowly.** If valve is hard to open, discontinue use and contact your supplier. Close valve after each use; keep closed even when empty. **Never apply flame or localized heat directly to any part of the cylinder.** High temperatures may damage the cylinder and could cause the pressure relief device to fail prematurely, venting the cylinder contents. For other precautions in using helium, see section 16.

PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN IN STORAGE: *Store and use with adequate ventilation.* Store only where temperature will not exceed 125°F (52°C). **Firmly secure cylinders upright to keep them from falling or being knocked over.** Screw valve protection cap firmly in place by hand. **Store full and empty cylinders separately.** Use a first-in, first-out inventory system to prevent storing full cylinders for long periods.

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

See section 16 for important information on by-products generated during use in welding and cutting.

COMPONENT	OSHA PEL	ACGIH TLV-TWA (2007)
Helium	Not Established.	Simple asphyxiant

IDLH = Not available.

ENGINEERING CONTROLS:

Local Exhaust. Use a local exhaust system, if necessary, to prevent oxygen deficiency, and in welding, to keep hazardous fumes and gases in the worker's breathing zone below all applicable exposure limits.

Mechanical (General). General exhaust ventilation may be acceptable if it can maintain an adequate supply of air and keep hazardous fumes and gases in the worker's breathing zone below all applicable exposure limits.

Special. None

Other. None

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT:

Skin Protection. Wear work gloves when handling cylinders; welding gloves for welding. Metatarsal shoes for cylinder handling. Select in accordance with OSHA 29 CFR 1910.132 and 1910.133. For welding, see section 16. Regardless of protective equipment, never touch live electrical parts.

Eye/Face Protection. Per input or existing MSDS.

Respiratory Protection. Use air-purifying or air-supplied respirators where local or general exhaust ventilation is inadequate to keep worker exposure below all applicable exposure limits for fumes, gases, and other by-products of welding with helium. See section 16 for details. Air-supplied respirators must be used in confined spaces. Respiratory protection must conform to OSHA rules as specified in 29 CFR 1910.134.

9. Physical and Chemical Properties
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APPEARANCE:	Colorless gas	
ODOR:	None	
ODOR THRESHOLD:	Not applicable.	
PHYSICAL STATE:	Gas at normal temperature and pressure	
pH:	Not applicable.	
MELTING POINT:	-456.5°F (-271.39°C)	
BOILING POINT at 1 atm:	-452.07°F (-268.93°C)	
FLASH POINT (test method):	Not applicable.	
EVAPORATION RATE (Butyl Acetate = 1):	Not applicable.	
FLAMMABILITY:	Nonflammable	
FLAMMABLE LIMITS IN AIR , % by volume:	LOWER: Not applicable.	UPPER: Not applicable.
VAPOR PRESSURE at 68°F (20°C):	Not applicable.	
VAPOR DENSITY at 70°F (21.1°C) and 1 atm:	0.0104 lb/ft ³ (0.166 kg/m ³)	
LIQUID DENSITY at boiling point and 1 atm:	7.802 lb/ft ³ (124.98 kg/m ³)	
SPECIFIC GRAVITY (Air = 1) at 70°F (21.1°C) and 1 atm:	0.138	
SOLUBILITY IN WATER 32°F (0°C) and 1 atm:	0.0094	
PARTITION COEFFICIENT: n-octanol/water:	Not available.	

AUTOIGNITION TEMPERATURE:	Not applicable.
DECOMPOSITION TEMPERATURE:	None
PERCENT VOLATILES BY VOLUME:	100
MOLECULAR WEIGHT:	4.003
MOLECULAR FORMULA:	He

10. Stability and Reactivity

CHEMICAL STABILITY: Unstable Stable

CONDITIONS TO AVOID: None known.

INCOMPATIBLE MATERIALS: None known. Helium is chemically inert.

HAZARDOUS DECOMPOSITION PRODUCTS: None known.

POSSIBILITY OF HAZARDOUS REACTIONS: May Occur Will Not Occur

11. Toxicological Information

ACUTE DOSE EFFECTS: Helium is a simple asphyxiant.

STUDY RESULTS: None known.

12. Ecological Information

ECOTOXICITY: No known effects.

OTHER ADVERSE EFFECTS: Helium 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.

14. Transport Information

DOT/IMO SHIPPING NAME: Helium, compressed

HAZARD CLASS:	PACKING GROUP/Zone:	IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:	PRODUCT RQ:
2.2	NA*	UN1046	None

SHIPPING LABEL(s): NONFLAMMABLE GAS

PLACARD (when required): 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: Helium 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.

Helium 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.

Helium is not listed as a regulated substance.

TSCA: TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT: Helium 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.

Helium is not listed in Appendix A as a highly hazardous chemical.

STATE REGULATIONS:

CALIFORNIA: Helium is not listed by California under the SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1986 (Proposition 65).

PENNSYLVANIA: Helium is subject to the PENNSYLVANIA WORKER AND COMMUNITY RIGHT-TO-KNOW ACT (35 P.S. Sections 7301-7320).

16. Other Information

Be sure to read and understand all labels and instructions supplied with all containers of this product.

OTHER HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS OF HANDLING, STORAGE, AND USE: *High-pressure gas.* Use piping and equipment adequately designed to withstand pressures to be encountered. Use a backflow prevention device in any piping. **Never work on a pressurized system.** If there is a leak, close the cylinder valve. Blow the system down in an environmentally safe 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.**

SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS: *Use in welding and cutting.* Read and understand the manufacturer's instructions and the precautionary label on the product. See American Standard Z49.1, *Safety in Welding, Cutting, and Allied Processes*, published by the American Welding Society, www.aws.org—order from Global Engineering Documents, 15 Inverness Way East, Englewood, CO 80112-5776 and OSHA Publication 2206 (29CFR 1910), US Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402, for more information.

Arcs and sparks can ignite combustible materials. Prevent fires. Refer to NFPA 51B, *Standard for Fire Prevention in Welding, Cutting, and Other Hotwork.* **Do not strike an arc on the cylinder.** The defect produced by an arc burn could lead to cylinder rupture.

Use in Underwater Breathing. Suitability of this product for use in underwater breathing must be determined by or under supervision of someone experienced in the use of underwater breathing gas mixtures. This person must be familiar with *how* the product is used; the frequency, duration, and effects of use; the hazards and side effects of use, and the precautions to take to avoid or control them.

Mixtures. When you mix two or more gases or liquefied gases, 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. Remember, gases and liquids have properties that can cause serious injury or death.

HAZARD RATING SYSTEMS:

NFPA RATINGS:

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

HMIS RATINGS:

HEALTH = 0
 FLAMMABILITY = 0
 PHYSICAL HAZARD = 3

STANDARD VALVE CONNECTIONS FOR U.S. AND CANADA:

THREADED:

0-3000 psig CGA-580
 3001-5500 psig CGA-680
 5001-7500 psig CGA-677

PIN-INDEXED YOKE:

CGA-930 (medical use)

ULTRA-HIGH-INTEGRITY CONNECTION:

CGA-718

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, 5th Floor, Chantilly, VA 20151-2923, Telephone (703) 788-2700, <http://www.cganet.com/Publication.asp>.

AV-1	<i>Safe Handling and Storage of Compressed Gases</i>
G-9.1	<i>Commodity Specification for Helium</i>
P-1	<i>Safe Handling of Compressed Gases in Containers</i>
P-2	<i>Characteristics and Safe Handling of Medical Gases</i>
P-9	<i>Inert Gases—Argon, Nitrogen, and Helium</i>
SB-2	<i>Oxygen-Deficient Atmospheres</i>
SB-8	<i>Use of Oxy-Fuel Gas Welding and Cutting Apparatus</i>
V-1	<i>Compressed Gas Cylinder Valve Inlet and Outlet Connections</i>
V-7.1	<i>Standard Method Of Determining Cylinder Valve Outlet Connections For Medical Gases</i>
—	<i>Handbook of Compressed Gases, Fourth Edition</i>

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.

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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