

Praxair Material Safety Data Sheet

1. Chemical Product and Company Identification

Product Name: Liquid Helium	Trade Name: Liquid Helium
Product Use: Many	
Chemical Name: Helium	Synonym: Helium-4, Helium, cryogenic liquid
Chemical Formula: He	Chemical Family: Rare Gas
Telephone: Emergencies: * 1-800-363-0042	Supplier /Manufacture: Praxair Canada Inc. 1 City Centre Drive Suite 1200 Mississauga, ON L5B 1M2
	Phone: 905-803-1600
	Fax: 905-803-1682

**Call emergency numbers 24 hours a day only for spills, leaks, fire, exposure, or accidents involving this product. For routine information, contact your supplier or Praxair sales representative.*

2. Hazards Identification

Emergency Overview

WARNING! Extremely cold liquid and gas under pressure. Can cause rapid suffocation. Can cause severe frostbite. Liquid or cold gas will freeze air in vent lines. May cause dizziness and drowsiness. Self-contained breathing apparatus and protective clothing may be required by rescue workers. This is a colourless, odourless, cryogenic liquid.

ROUTES OF EXPOSURE: Inhalation. Swallowing. Skin contact. Eye contact.

EFFECTS OF A SINGLE (ACUTE) OVEREXPOSURE:

INHALATION: Asphyxiant. Effects are due to lack of oxygen. Moderate concentrations may cause headaches, drowsiness, dizziness, excitation, excess salivation, vomiting, and unconsciousness. Lack of oxygen can kill.

SKIN CONTACT: No harm expected from vapour. Liquid may cause frostbite.

SKIN ABSORPTION: No evidence of adverse effects from available information. Liquid may cause frostbite.

SWALLOWING: An unlikely route of exposure, but frostbite of the lips and mouth may result from contact with the liquid.

EYE CONTACT: No harm expected from vapour. Liquid may cause frostbite.

EFFECTS OF REPEATED (CHRONIC) OVEREXPOSURE:

No evidence of adverse effects from available information.

OTHER EFFECTS OF OVEREXPOSURE:

Asphyxiant. Lack of oxygen can kill.

MEDICAL CONDITIONS AGGRAVATED BY OVEREXPOSURE:

A knowledge of the available toxicology information and of the physical and chemical properties of the material suggests that overexposure is unlikely to aggravate existing medical conditions.

SIGNIFICANT LABORATORY DATA WITH POSSIBLE RELEVANCE TO HUMAN HEALTH HAZARD EVALUATION:

None currently known.

CARCINOGENICITY:

Not listed as carcinogen by OSHA, NTP or IARC.

3. Composition and Information on Ingredients

COMPONENTS	CAS NUMBER	CONCENTRATION % by Mole
Helium	7440-59-7	100

4. First Aid Measures

INHALATION:

If inhaled, remove to fresh air. If not breathing, give artificial respiration. If breathing is difficult, give oxygen. Get medical attention immediately.

SKIN CONTACT:

Immediately warm frostbite area with warm water (not to exceed 40 C). In case of massive exposure, remove clothing and shoes while showering with warm water. Get medical attention immediately.

SWALLOWING:

This product is a gas at normal temperature and pressure.

EYE CONTACT:

Immediately flush eyes with water for a least 15 minutes. See a physician, preferably an ophthalmologist, immediately.

NOTES TO PHYSICIAN:

There is no specific antidote. Treatment of over-exposure should be directed at the control of symptoms and the clinical condition.

5. Fire Fighting Measures

FLAMMABLE : No. **IF YES, UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS?** Not applicable.

EXTINGUISHING MEDIA:

This material cannot catch fire. Use media appropriate for surrounding fire.

PRODUCTS OF COMBUSTION:

None.

PROTECTION OF FIREFIGHTERS:

WARNING! Asphyxiant. Effects are due to lack of oxygen. 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.

SPECIFIC PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL HAZARDS:

Liquid or vapour cannot catch fire. Container may rupture due to heat of fire. Most containers are provided with a pressure relief device designed to vent contents when they are exposed to elevated temperature. Liquid causes cryogenic "burns" (frostbite-like injury). Liquid material will freeze water rapidly. Air will condense on exposed liquid or cold-gas surfaces, such as vaporizers and piping. Nitrogen, having a lower boiling point than oxygen, will evaporate first, leaving an oxygen-enriched condensation on the surface. To prevent the possible ignition of grease, oil, or other combustible materials on such surfaces, all areas of possible air condensation should be kept free of these materials.

SENSITIVITY TO IMPACT:

Avoid impact against container.

SENSITIVITY TO STATIC DISCHARGE:

Not applicable.

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND PRECAUTIONS FOR FIREFIGHTERS:

Firefighters should wear self-contained breathing apparatus and full fire-fighting turnout gear.

FLAMMABLE LIMITS IN AIR, % by volume:

LOWER: Not applicable.

UPPER: Not applicable.

FLASH POINT:

Not applicable.

AUTOIGNITION TEMPERATURE:

Not applicable.

6. Accidental Release Measures

STEPS TO BE TAKEN IF MATERIAL IS RELEASED OR SPILLED:**Personal Precautions:**

WARNING! Evacuate all personnel from danger area. Use self-contained breathing apparatus where needed. Shut off flow if you can do so without risk. Ventilate area or move cylinder to a well-ventilated area. Test for sufficient oxygen, especially in confined spaces, before allowing reentry.

Environmental Precautions:

Discard any product, residue, disposable container, or liner in an environmentally acceptable manner, in full compliance with federal, provincial, 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. For other precautions, see section 16.

For additional information on storage and handling, refer to Compressed Gas Association (CGA) pamphlet P-1, *Safe Handling of Compressed Gases in Containers*, available from the CGA. Refer to section 16 for the address and phone number along with a list of other available publications.

PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN IN STORAGE:

Extremely cold liquid and gas. Contact with liquid or cold gas causes severe frostbite. Vapours can cause rapid suffocation due to oxygen deficiency. Protect containers against physical damage. Use piping and equipment adequately designed to withstand the pressures and temperatures to be encountered. Do not get liquid in eyes, on skin or clothing. Store and use with adequate ventilation. Close valve when not in use and when empty. Do not ground container.

OTHER HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS OF HANDLING, STORAGE, AND USE:

Extremely cold liquid and gas. Do not get liquid or vapours in eyes, on skin, or clothing. Safety showers and eyewash fountains should be immediately available. Use only in a closed system. Use piping and equipment adequately designed to withstand pressures to be encountered. Liquid can solidify air. **Store and use with adequate ventilation at all times.** Close valve after each use; keep closed even when empty. Air will condense on exposed liquid or cold-gas surfaces, such as vaporizers and piping. Nitrogen, having a lower boiling point than oxygen, will evaporate first leaving an oxygen-enriched condensation on the surface. **Prevent reverse flow.** Reverse flow into cylinder may cause rupture. **When returning cylinder to supplier,** be sure valve is closed. **Never work on a pressurized system.** If there is a leak, close the cylinder valve. Vent the system down in a safe and environmentally sound manner in compliance with all federal, provincial, and local laws; then repair the leak. **Never place a compressed gas cylinder where it may become part of an electrical circuit.**

RECOMMENDED PUBLICATIONS:

Additional information on storage, handling, and use of this product is provided in **NFPA 55: Standard for the Storage, Use, and Handling of Compressed and Liquefied Gases in Portable Cylinders**, published by the National Fire Protection Association.

See also Praxair publication P-14-153, *Guidelines for Handling Gas Cylinders and Containers*. Obtain from your local supplier.

8. Exposure Controls/Personal Protection

INGREDIENTS	CAS NUMBER	LD ₅₀ (Species & Routes)	LC ₅₀ (Rat, 4 hrs.)	Exposure Limits
Helium	7440-59-7	Not applicable.	Not available.	Simple asphyxiant.

IMMEDIATELY DANGEROUS TO LIFE AND HEALTH (IDLH):

VENTILATION/ENGINEERING CONTROLS:

LOCAL EXHAUST: Preferred.

MECHANICAL (General): Acceptable.

SPECIAL: Not applicable.

OTHER: Not applicable.

PERSONAL PROTECTION:

RESPIRATORY PROTECTION: Use air supplied respirator when working in confined space or where local exhaust or ventilation does not keep exposure below TLV. Select in accordance with the provincial regulations or guidelines. Selection should also be based on the current CSA standards Z94.4, "Selection, care and use of respirators". Respirators should be approved by NIOSH and MSHA.

SKIN PROTECTION: Loose-fitting cryogenic gloves.

EYE PROTECTION: Wear safety glasses when handling cylinders.

Select in accordance with the current CSA standard Z94.3, "Industrial Eye and Face Protection", and any provincial regulations, local bylaws or guidelines.

OTHER PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT: Metatarsal shoes for cylinder handling. Protective clothing where needed. Cuffless trousers should be worn outside the shoes. Select in accordance with the current CSA standard Z195, "Protective Foot Wear", and any provincial regulations, local bylaws or guidelines.

9. Physical and Chemical Properties

PHYSICAL STATE: Liquid.	FREEZING POINT: -272 C	pH: Not applicable.
BOILING POINT: -268.9°C (-452°F)	VAPOUR PRESSURE: Not applicable.	MOLECULAR WEIGHT: 4 g/mole
SPECIFIC GRAVITY: LIQUID (Water = 1) 0.147 @ -271 C	SOLUBILITY IN WATER: Negligible.	
SPECIFIC GRAVITY: VAPOUR (air = 1) 0.14 g/ml @ 21.1 C	EVAPORATION RATE (Butyl Acetate=1): High.	COEFFICIENT OF WATER/OIL DISTRIBUTION: Not applicable.
VAPOUR DENSITY: 0.000165 g/ml @ 21.1 C	% VOLATILES BY VOLUME: 100% (v/v).	ODOUR THRESHOLD: Odourless.
APPEARANCE & ODOUR: Colourless. Odourless.		

10. Stability and Reactivity

STABILITY:	The product is stable.
CONDITIONS OF CHEMICAL INSTABILITY:	None.
INCOMPATIBILITY (materials to avoid):	None currently known. Product is inert.
HAZARDOUS DECOMPOSITION PRODUCTS:	None.
HAZARDOUS POLYMERIZATION:	Will not occur.
CONDITIONS TO AVOID:	None known.
CONDITIONS OF REACTIVITY:	None known.

11. Toxicological Information

ACUTE DOSE EFFECTS: Helium is a simple asphyxiant.

STUDY RESULTS:

None known.

12. Ecological Information

No adverse ecological effects expected. This product does not contain any Class I or Class II ozone-depleting chemicals. The components of this mixture are not listed as marine pollutants by TDG Regulations.

13. Disposal Considerations

WASTE DISPOSAL METHOD: Do not attempt to dispose of residual or unused quantities. Return cylinder to supplier.

14. Transport Information

TDG/IMO SHIPPING NAME: Helium, Refrigerated Liquid

HAZARD CLASS: CLASS 2.2: Non-flammable, non-corrosive and non-toxic gas.	IDENTIFICATION #: UN1963	PRODUCT REPORTABLE QUANTITY (PRQ): Any accidental release in a quantity that could pose a danger to public safety or any sustained release of 10 minutes or more.
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SHIPPING LABEL(s): Non-flammable, non-corrosive and non-toxic gas

PLACARD (When Required): Non-flammable, non-corrosive and non-toxic gas

SPECIAL SHIPPING INFORMATION:

Cylinders should be transported in a secure position, in a well-ventilated vehicle. Cylinders transported in an enclosed, non-ventilated compartment of a vehicle can present serious safety hazards.

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, provincial, and local regulations. This product has been classified in accordance with the hazard criteria of the CPR and the MSDS contains all the information required by the CPR.

WHMIS (Canada): CLASS A: Compressed gas.

This product is on the DSL list.

International Regulations:

EINECS: Not available.

DSCL (EEC): This product is not classified according to the EU regulations.

International Lists: No products were found.

16. Other Information**MIXTURES:**

When two or more gases, or liquefied gases are mixed, their hazardous properties may combine to 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 make your safety evaluation of the end product. Remember, gases and liquids have properties which can cause serious injury or death.

HAZARD RATING SYSTEM:**HMIS RATINGS:**

HEALTH 3

FLAMMABILITY 0

PHYSICAL HAZARD 2

STANDARD VALVE CONNECTIONS FOR U.S. AND CANADA:

THREADED: CGA-792 (cryogenic liquid withdrawl)
PIN-INDEXED YOKE: Not applicable.
ULTRA-HIGH-INTEGRITY CONNECTION: Not applicable.

Use the proper CGA connections. **DO NOT USE ADAPTERS.** Additional limited-standard connections may apply. See CGA pamphlets V-1 and V-7 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 about this product can be found in the following pamphlets published by the Compressed Gas Association, Inc. (CGA), 4221 Walney Road, 5th Floor, Chantilly, VA 20151-2923, Telephone (703) 788-2700, Fax (703) 961-1831, website: www.cganet.com.

AV-1 Safe Handling and Storage of Compressed Gas
G-9.1 Commodity Specification for Helium
P-1 Safe Handling of Compressed Gases in Containers
P-12 Safe Handling of Cryogenic Liquids
P-14 Accident Prevention in Oxygen-Rich, Oxygen-Deficient Atmospheres
SB-2 Oxygen-Deficient Atmospheres
SB-8 Use of Oxy-Fuel Gas Welding and Cutting Apparatus
V-1 Compressed Gas Cylinder Valve Inlet and Outlet Connections
--- Handbook of Compressed Gases, Fifth Edition

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.

PREPARATION INFORMATION:

DATE: October 15, 2013
DEPARTMENT: Safety and Environmental Services
TELEPHONE: 905-803-1600

The opinions expressed herein are those of qualified experts within Praxair Canada 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 Canada Inc., it is the user's obligation to determine the conditions of safe use of the product.

Praxair Canada Inc. requests the users of this product to study this Material Data Sheet (MSDS) and become aware of product hazards and safety information. To promote safe use of this product, a user should (1) notify its employees, agents and contractors of the information on this MSDS and any product hazards and safety information, (2) furnish this same information to each of its customers for the product, and (3) request such customers to notify their employees and customers for the product of the same product hazards and safety information.

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