

# SAFETY DATA SHEET

Version 1.12  
Revision Date 19.07.2005MSDS Number 300000000067  
Print Date 16.10.2005

## 1. IDENTIFICATION OF THE SUBSTANCE/PREPARATION AND THE COMPANY/UNDERTAKING

Identification of the substance/preparation : Helium

Chemical formula : He

Synonyms : Helium, Helium gas, Gaseous helium, Balloon gas

Use of the Substance/Preparation : General Industrial

Company : Air Products PLC  
Hersham Place, Molesey Road  
Walton-On-Thames, Surrey  
Postcode KT12 4RZ

Telephone : +44(0)8457 020202

Emergency telephone number : 1. Cylinder 0500 020202 / + 44 1270 53 1605  
2. Bulk 0500 020202 / + 44 1270 506 100  
3. Medical 0500 020202 / + 44 1270 53 1605

## 2. COMPOSITION/INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS

Substance/Preparation : Substance

Components	EINECS / ELINCS	CAS Number	Concentration (Volume)	Classification
Helium	231-168-5	7440-59-7	100 %	

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

## 3. HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION

### Classification

Not a hazardous substance or preparation according to EC-directives 67/548/EEC or 1999/45/EC.  
No EC labelling required.

### Emergency Overview

High pressure gas.  
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.

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- 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.

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## 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.

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## 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

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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.

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## 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 (122°F). 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. Leave valve protection caps in place until the container has been secured against either a wall or bench or placed in a container stand and is ready for use. Use an adjustable strap wrench to remove over-tight or rusted caps. 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. Never insert an object (e.g. wrench, screwdriver, pry bar, etc.) into valve cap openings. Doing so may damage valve, causing a leak to occur. 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. Replace outlet caps or plugs and container caps as soon as container is disconnected from equipment. 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 protection cap or 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. When returning cylinder install valve outlet cap or plug leak tight. 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 (122°F). Prolonged periods of cold temperature below -30°C ( -20°F) should be avoided.

### Storage

Full containers should be stored so that oldest stock is used first. Containers should be stored in a purpose build 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 (122°F). 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

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## 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.

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## 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)
- Density : 0.012 lb/ft<sup>3</sup> (0.0002 g/cm<sup>3</sup>) at 70 °F (21 °C)  
Note: (as vapor)
- Specific Volume : 96.68 ft<sup>3</sup>/lb (6.0349 m<sup>3</sup>/kg) at 70 °F (21 °C)
- Boiling point/range : -268.9 °C
- Critical temperature : -267.9 °C
- Water solubility : 0.0015 g/l

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## 10. STABILITY AND REACTIVITY

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

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## 11. TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION

### Acute Health Hazard

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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.

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## 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

This product has no known eco-toxicological effects.

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## 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  
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

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## 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.

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## 15. REGULATORY INFORMATION

### Labelling according to EEC Directive

R-phrase(s) : Not a hazardous substance or preparation according to EC-directives 67/548/EEC or 1999/45/EC.  
No EC labelling required.

Country	Regulatory list	Notification
USA	TSCA	Included on Inventory.
EU	EINECS	Included on Inventory.
Canada	DSL	Included on Inventory.
Australia	AICS	Included on Inventory.
Japan	ENCS	Included on Inventory.
South Korea	ECL	Included on Inventory.
China	SEPA	Included on Inventory.
Philippines	PICCS	Included on Inventory.

Water hazard classification (WGK) : Not water endangering.

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## 16. OTHER INFORMATION

Ensure all national/local regulations are observed.

Prepared by : Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. Global EH&S Product Safety Department

For additional information, please visit our Product Stewardship web site at <http://www.airproducts.com/productstewardship/>

This Safety Data Sheet has been established in accordance with the applicable European Directives and applies to all countries that have translated the Directives in their national laws.

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.