

# Praxair Material Safety Data Sheet

## 1. Chemical Product and Company Identification

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

**CAUTION!** High-pressure gas. Can cause rapid suffocation. May cause dizziness and drowsiness. Self-contained breathing apparatus may be required by rescue workers. Odour: None.

**ROUTES OF EXPOSURE:** Inhalation.

**THRESHOLD LIMIT VALUE:** TLV-TWA Data from 2007 Guide to Occupational Exposure Values (ACGIH). TLV-TWAs should be used as a guide in the control of health hazards and not as fine lines between safe and dangerous concentrations.

### 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.

**SKIN ABSORPTION:** No harm expected.

**SWALLOWING:** This product is a gas at normal temperature and pressure.

**EYE CONTACT:** No harm expected.

### EFFECTS OF REPEATED (CHRONIC) OVEREXPOSURE:

None known.

### OTHER EFFECTS OF OVEREXPOSURE:

None known.

**MEDICAL CONDITIONS AGGRAVATED BY OVEREXPOSURE:**

Repeated or prolonged exposure is not known to aggravate medical condition.

**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**

<b>COMPONENTS</b>	<b>CAS NUMBER</b>	<b>CONCENTRATION % by Mole</b>
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:**

Wash with soap and water.

**SWALLOWING:**

This product is a gas at normal temperature and pressure.

**EYE CONTACT:**

Flush with water.

**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 :** IF YES, UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS? Not applicable.

**EXTINGUISHING MEDIA:**

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

**PRODUCTS OF COMBUSTION:**

None.

**PROTECTION OF FIREFIGHTERS:**

**CAUTION! High-pressure gas.** 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:**

Gas cannot catch fire. Container may rupture due to heat of fire. No part of a container should be subjected to a temperature higher than 52 C. Most containers are provided with a pressure relief device designed to vent contents when they are exposed to elevated temperature.

**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:**

**CAUTION! High-pressure gas.** 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:**

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, 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:**

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

**OTHER HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS OF HANDLING, STORAGE, AND USE:**

**High pressure gas.** Use piping and equipment adequately designed to withstand pressures to be encountered. **Gas can cause rapid suffocation due to oxygen deficiency.** Store and use with adequate ventilation. Close valve after each use; keep closed even when empty. **Prevent reverse flow.** Reverse flow into cylinder may cause rupture. Use a check valve or other protective device in any line or piping from the cylinder. **When returning cylinder to supplier,** be sure valve is closed, then install valve outlet plug tightly. **Never work on 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 <sub>50</sub> (Species & Routes)	LC <sub>50</sub> (Rat, 4 hrs.)	Exposure Limits
Helium	7440-59-7	Not applicable.	Not available.	Simple asphyxiant.

**THRESHOLD LIMIT VALUE:** TLV-TWA Data from 2007 Guide to Occupational Exposure Values (ACGIH). TLV-TWAs should be used as a guide in the control of health hazards and not as fine lines between safe and dangerous concentrations.

### IMMEDIATELY DANGEROUS TO LIFE AND HEALTH (IDLH):

### VENTILATION/ENGINEERING CONTROLS:

**LOCAL EXHAUST:** Use a local exhaust system, if necessary, to maintain an adequate supply of oxygen in the worker's breathing zone.

**MECHANICAL (General):** Under certain conditions, general exhaust ventilation may be acceptable to control concentration of asphyxiant gases in the worker's breathing zone.

**SPECIAL:** None.

**OTHER:** None.

### PERSONAL PROTECTION:

**RESPIRATORY PROTECTION:** Use air supplied respirator when working in confined space or where local exhaust or ventilation does not keep exposure below the TLVs of welding fumes if welding with helium. 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:** Wear work gloves when handling cylinders.

**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

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

## 10. Stability and Reactivity

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

## 11. Toxicological Information

**ACUTE DOSE EFFECTS:** Helium is a simple asphyxiant. The welding process may generate hazardous fumes and gases. (See section 16)

**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, Compressed

<b>HAZARD CLASS:</b>	CLASS 2.2: Non-flammable, non-corrosive and non- poisonous gas.	<b>IDENTIFICATION #:</b>	UN1046	<b>PRODUCT RQ:</b>	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-poisonous gas

**PLACARD (When Required):** Non-flammable, non-poisonous gas

#### SPECIAL SHIPPING INFORMATION:

Cylinders should be transported in a secure position, in a well-ventilated vehicle. Cylinders transported in an enclosed, nonventilated compartment of 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 0

FLAMMABILITY 0

PHYSICAL HAZARD 2

#### STANDARD VALVE CONNECTIONS FOR U.S. AND CANADA:

**THREADED:** 0 - 3000 psig CGA-580  
3001 - 5500 psig CGA-680  
5501 - 7500 psig CGA-677

**PIN-INDEXED YOKE:** CGA-930

**ULTRA-HIGH-INTEGRITY CONNECTION:** CGA-716

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-14 Accident Prevention in Oxygen-Rich, Oxygen-Deficient Atmosphere
- 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
- V-7 Standard Method of Determining Cylinder Valve Outlet Connections for Industrial Gas Mixtures
- Handbook of Compressed Gases, Fourth 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:** 10/15/2007  
**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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