

Praxair Material Safety Data Sheet

1. Chemical Product and Company Identification

Product Name: Ethylene Oxide (MSDS No. P-4798-K)	Trade Names: Ethylene Oxide
Chemical Name: Ethylene Oxide	Synonyms: Dihydrooxirine, dimethylene oxide, ethene oxide, epoxyethane, oxane, oxacyclopropane, oxidoethane, oxiran, oxirane, 1,2 epoxyethane
Chemical Family: Epoxide	Product Grades: None assigned.
Telephone:	Company Name: Praxair, Inc.
Emergencies: 1-800-645-4633*	39 Old Ridgebury Road
CHEMTREC: 1-800-424-9300*	Danbury, CT 06810-5113
Routine: 1-800-PRAXAIR	

*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



DANGER! Cancer hazard and reproductive hazard.
Toxic, extremely flammable liquid and gas under pressure.

Can form explosive mixtures with air.

Can cause eye and skin burns.

Can irritate the respiratory tract.

May cause nervous system damage and cataracts.

Liquid may cause frostbite.

May cause dizziness and drowsiness.

Symptoms of exposure may be delayed.

Self-contained breathing apparatus must be worn by rescue workers.

Under ambient conditions, this colorless liquid has an ether-like odor.



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. May be fatal if inhaled in high concentrations. Ethylene oxide irritates the respiratory tract. Depending on the degree of exposure, there may be stinging of the nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, lightheaded feeling, weakness, drowsiness, cyanosis, loss of coordination, convulsions, and coma. May cause lung injury and the delayed onset of pulmonary edema.

Skin Contact. Sustained contact of vapor with the skin is unlikely but can cause headache, dizziness, nausea, and vomiting. A dilute solution may penetrate the skin, producing a chemical burn. Contact with the liquid or with water solutions may produce a local erythema, edema, and formation of vesicles. These signs may not appear for several hours. Large concentrations of liquid spilled on the skin may cause frostbite, a freezing injury resembling a burn.

Swallowing. A highly unlikely route of exposure. Will cause severe irritation and ulceration of the mouth and throat, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, collapse, and coma. Frostbite of the lips and mouth may result from contact with the liquid.

Eye Contact. Liquid may cause frostbite and severe irritation with corneal injury. High concentrations of vapor may cause moderate irritation.

Effects of Repeated (Chronic) Overexposure. Allergic contact dermatitis may occur in a small proportion of exposed workers. In various reports involving recurring exposures to high concentrations of ethylene oxide vapor, peripheral neurotoxic effects, and, in some cases, indications of central nervous system toxicity, were described. In most cases, there was marked improvement on removal from further exposure. A few cases of cataract formation have also been linked to such exposures. Although one epidemiological study has suggested that women exposed to ethylene oxide may have an increased incidence of spontaneous abortions, the laboratory findings indicate that if adverse reproductive effects are produced by ethylene oxide, these occur only at high exposure concentrations. OSHA considers that, at excessive levels, ethylene oxide may present reproductive, mutagenic, genotoxic, neurologic, and sensitization hazards.

Other Effects of Overexposure. May cause cataracts. For other effects, see below and section 11, Toxicological Information.

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

CARCINOGENICITY: OSHA considers ethylene oxide to pose a human cancer hazard and a human reproductive hazard. The IARC assigns it to Group 1, "Carcinogenic to humans." The NTP classifies it as "known to be a human carcinogen." Refer to OSHA 29 CFR 1910.1047 for additional information.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: None known. For further information, see section 12, Ecological Information.

3. Composition/Information on Ingredients

See section 16 for important information about mixtures.

COMPONENT	CAS NUMBER	CONCENTRATION
Ethylene Oxide	75-21-8	>99%*

*The symbol > means "greater than."

4. First Aid Measures

IMPORTANT: *In all cases of exposure, get or summon medical treatment immediately. Take the victim to a doctor or medical facility at once.*

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: Immediately flush skin with plenty of water while removing contaminated clothing and shoes. Wash skin with soap and water. For exposure to liquid, immediately warm frostbite area with warm water not to exceed 105°F (41°C). In case of massive exposure, remove clothing while showering with warm water. Call a physician. Aerate, wash, or clean contaminated clothing. Discard leather goods and shoes.

SWALLOWING: A highly unlikely route of exposure. If patient is conscious, give at least two glasses of water. Do not induce vomiting. Never give anything to an unconscious person by mouth. Call a physician.

EYE CONTACT: Immediately flush eyes thoroughly with water for at least 15 minutes. Hold the eyelids open and away from the eyeballs to ensure that all surfaces are flushed thoroughly. Seek the advice of a physician, preferably an ophthalmologist urgently.

NOTES TO PHYSICIAN: *(1) Persons exposed to ethylene oxide may develop severe and intractable vomiting, requiring the use of antiemetics given intravenously. (2) Prolonged or high vapor concentration exposure may result in the development of pulmonary edema after a latent phase of several hours. Also, respiratory tract injury caused by ethylene oxide may predispose to the development of a secondary respiratory infection. Individuals exposed to moderately high vapor concentrations of ethylene oxide should be retained for observation. (3) Following skin contacts, primary irritation and blister formation may be delayed in onset. (4) When introduced directly into the bloodstream, ethylene oxide may act as hapten and lead to the development of anaphylactoid reactions of varying severity. This has been noted in a few haemodialysis and plasmapheresis patients due to desorption of ethylene oxide from the sterilized equipment. There appears to be a close association to the presence of IgE antibodies to albumin/ethylene oxide conjugates.*

Contact the Poison Control Center in your area for additional information on patient management and follow-up.

5. Fire Fighting Measures

FLAMMABLE PROPERTIES: Extremely flammable gas.

SUITABLE EXTINGUISHING MEDIA: Water spray, CO₂, dry chemical, or alcohol- or universal-type foams applied per manufacturer's recommendation.

PRODUCTS OF COMBUSTION: Carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide

PROTECTION OF FIREFIGHTERS: DANGER! Cancer hazard and reproductive hazard.

Toxic, extremely flammable liquid and gas under pressure. Immediately evacuate all personnel from danger area. (For maximum safety, evacuate 5,000 ft (1524 m) in all directions.) Refer to DOT *Emergency Response Guidebook* (DOT P 5800, latest edition) for isolation and evacuation distances. Immediately cool cylinders with water spray from maximum distance taking care not to extinguish flames. Remove ignition sources if without risk. If flames are accidentally extinguished, explosive re-ignition may occur. Use self-contained breathing apparatus operated in the pressure demand mode and appropriate protective clothing. Stop flow of gas if without risk while continuing cooling water spray. Remove all cylinders from area

of fire if without risk. Allow fire to burn out. Dilution of ethylene oxide with 23 volumes of water renders it nonflammable per OSHA 29 CFR 1910.1047, Appendix B. Praxair recommends dilution of ethylene oxide with 100 volumes of water as an additional safe practice. On-site fire brigades must comply with OSHA 29 CFR 1910.156.

Specific Physical and Chemical Hazards. May form explosive mixtures with air and oxidizing agents. Heat of fire can build pressure in cylinder and cause it to rupture. Ethylene oxide containers are equipped with a pressure-relief device. (Exceptions may exist where authorized by DOT.) No part of a cylinder should be subjected to a temperature higher than 125°F (52°C). If venting or leaking ethylene oxide catches fire, do not extinguish flames. Flammable vapors may spread from leak, creating an explosive re-ignition hazard. Vapors can be ignited by pilot lights, other flames, smoking, sparks, heaters, electrical equipment, static discharge, or other ignition sources at locations distant from product handling point. Explosive atmospheres may linger. Ethylene oxide can decompose violently under certain conditions. Vapor in air has a very low ignition energy (0.6mJ) and is prone to static or other low-energy ignition sources. Ethylene oxide leaks may spontaneously ignite in certain types of insulation, exposing material inside insulated vessels to temperatures exceeding the decomposition temperature of ethylene oxide. Before entering an area, especially a confined area, check atmosphere with approved explosion meter.

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:

DANGER! Cancer hazard and reproductive hazard. Toxic, extremely flammable liquid and gas under pressure.

Personal Precautions. Forms explosive mixtures with air. Use self-contained breathing apparatus operated in the pressure demand mode and wear appropriate protective clothing. Reduce vapors with fine water spray or fog. Remove all sources of ignition and shut off leak if you can do so without risk. Ventilate area of leak or move leaking assembly to a well-ventilated area. Flammable vapors may spread from spill. Flood spills with water spray, prevent runoff, and collect for disposal. Do not turn on any source of ignition until the area is determined to be free of fire and explosion hazards. Test for sufficient oxygen, especially in confined spaces, before allowing reentry. Do not allow solutions of pure ethylene oxide or of ethylene oxide and water to discharge into streams or sewers. Contingency planning is recommended for handling releases, spills, and emergencies.

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: *Cancer hazard and reproductive hazard.* May form explosive mixtures with air. Use only spark-proof tools and explosion-proof equipment. Keep away from heat, sparks, and open flame. Ground all equipment. ***Noxious, irritating gas; can cause rapid suffocation due to oxygen deficiency.*** Do not breath vapor. ***Avoid contact with eyes, skin, or clothing.*** Have safety showers and eyewash fountains

immediately available. **Practice good personal hygiene.** Wash thoroughly after handling. Protect cylinders from damage. Use a suitable hand truck to move cylinders; do not drag, roll, slide, or drop. All piped ethylene oxide systems and associated equipment must be grounded. Electrical equipment must be non-sparking or explosion-proof. Leak check system with soapy water; never use a flame. 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 in using ethylene oxide, see section 16.

PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN IN STORAGE: Store and use with adequate ventilation at all times. Separate ethylene oxide cylinders from oxygen, chlorine, and other oxidizers by at least 20 ft (6.1 m) or use a barricade of noncombustible material. This barricade should be at least 5 ft (1.53 m) high and have a fire resistance rating of at least ½ hr. Firmly secure cylinders upright to keep them from falling or being knocked over. Screw valve protection cap firmly in place by hand. Post "No Smoking or Open Flames" signs in storage and use areas. There must be no sources of ignition. All electrical equipment in storage areas must be explosion-proof. Storage areas must meet national electric codes for Class 1 hazardous areas. Store only where temperature will not exceed 125°F (52°C). 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

COMPONENT	OSHA PEL	ACGIH TLV-TWA (2008)
Ethylene Oxide	1 ppm (0.5 ppm Action Level; 5 ppm, 15 min Excursion Limit)	1 ppm

*(c) – ceiling. Ceiling values are not Time-Weighted-Average (TWA).

**N.E.—Not Established.

TLV-TWAs should be used as a guide in the control of health hazards and not as fine lines between safe and dangerous concentrations.

IDLH = 800 ppm

ENGINEERING CONTROLS:

Local Exhaust. Use an explosion-proof local exhaust system with sufficient air flow velocity to maintain the concentration of ethylene oxide below the Action Level (0.5 ppm) in the worker's breathing zone.

Mechanical (General). Not recommended as a primary ventilation system to control worker exposure. Should be used in conjunction with local exhaust ventilation.

Special. Use in a closed system. Ventilation should be designed so that no person is exposed to concentrations of ethylene oxide exceeding the OSHA PEL of 1 ppm or the OSHA Excursion Limit of 5 ppm.

Other. See SPECIAL.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT:

Skin Protection. Butyl rubber (49 FR 25782, June 22, 1984). (See section 16.) Gloves have a lifetime of approximately one-half to one hour after contact with liquid ethylene oxide.

Eye/Face Protection. Full face shield and safety glasses or goggles. Select in accordance with OSHA 29 CFR 1910.133. Contact lenses should not be worn. Metatarsal shoes for cylinder handling. Rubber shoes and apron where risk of liquid spill exists. Select in accordance with OSHA 29 CFR 1910.132 and 1910.133. Exposure must be held to the PEL/TLV standard by appropriate engineering and procedural safeguards. Do not allow protective equipment to become contaminated with ethylene oxide. Regardless of protective equipment, never touch live electrical parts.

Respiratory Protection. A respiratory protection program that meet OSHA 29 CFR 1910.134, ANSI Z88.2, or MSHA 30 CFR 72.710 (where applicable) requirements must be followed whenever workplace conditions warrant respirator use. Use an air-supplied or air-purifying cartridge if the action level is exceeded. Ensure the respirator has the appropriate protection factor for the exposure level. If cartridge type respirators are used, the cartridge must be appropriate for the chemical exposure (e.g., an organic vapor cartridge). For emergencies or instances with unknown exposure levels, use a self-contained breathing apparatus. Refer to OSHA 29 CFR 1910.1047 for respiratory protection requirements.

9. Physical and Chemical Properties
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APPEARANCE:	Colorless liquid	
ODOR:	Ether-like	
ODOR THRESHOLD:	420-490 ppm	
PHYSICAL STATE:	Liquid at normal temperature and pressure	
pH:	Not applicable.	
FREEZING POINT at 1 atm:	-169.06°F (-111.7°C)	
BOILING POINT at 1 atm:	51.26°F (10.7°C)	
FLASH POINT (test method):	-67°F (-55°C)	
EVAPORATION RATE (Butyl Acetate = 1):	High	
FLAMMABILITY:	Flammable	
FLAMMABLE LIMITS IN AIR , % by volume:	LOWER: 3%	UPPER: 100% (via decomposition)
VAPOR PRESSURE at 68°F (20°C):	22 psia (152 kPa abs)	
VAPOR DENSITY at 70°F (21.1°C) and 1 atm:	0.1139 lb/ft ³ (1.824 kg/m ³)	
SPECIFIC GRAVITY (H ₂ O = 1) at 68°/39.2°F (20°/4°C):	0.8700	
SPECIFIC GRAVITY:	1.521	
SOLUBILITY IN WATER 68°F (20°C):	Complete	
PARTITION COEFFICIENT: n-octanol/water:	Not available.	
AUTOIGNITION TEMPERATURE:	804°F (429°C)	
DECOMPOSITION TEMPERATURE:	Not available.	
PERCENT VOLATILES BY VOLUME:	100	
MOLECULAR WEIGHT:	44.05	
MOLECULAR FORMULA:	C ₂ H ₄ O	

10. Stability and Reactivity

CHEMICAL STABILITY: Unstable Stable

This material is stable as shipped and stored under nitrogen pressure as a liquid.

CONDITIONS TO AVOID: Pure ethylene oxide decomposes violently if exposed to a high enough temperature. The temperature required for decomposition can vary depending on time, pressure, and conditions within the system and is reduced as pressure and volume-to-surface ratios are increased. Decomposition temperatures ranging from 842°F-1040°F (450°C-560°C) have been observed in experimental apparatus. Ethylene oxide is stable at ordinary conditions of temperature and pressure and in ordinary use, handling, and storage in the absence of other materials or contaminants. Prevent heat build up by avoiding flame or heat impingement on vessels and piping and preventing contamination of ethylene oxide with trace amounts of other materials.

INCOMPATIBLE MATERIALS: Because of the highly reactive nature of ethylene oxide, dangerous runaway reactions can result from contamination with alkalis, amines, acids, water, metal chlorides, metal oxides, or a wide variety of other organic and inorganic materials. These contaminants can catalyze highly exothermic ethylene oxide reactions, which could possibly lead to a violent ethylene oxide decomposition. Ensure piping and vessels are essentially free of reactive metal oxides prior to introduction of ethylene oxide.

HAZARDOUS DECOMPOSITION PRODUCTS: Thermal decomposition may produce carbon monoxide and/or carbon dioxide.

POSSIBILITY OF HAZARDOUS REACTIONS: May Occur Will Not Occur

Ethylene oxide polymerizes violently if contaminated with aqueous alkalis, amines, mineral acids, metal chlorides, or metal oxides. Avoid contamination of ethylene oxide with trace amounts of other materials. Avoid exposing stored ethylene oxide to heat or sources of ignition. Ethylene oxide does not polymerize spontaneously under normal conditions of temperature, pressure, etc.

11. Toxicological Information

ACUTE DOSE EFFECTS: LC₅₀, 1 hr, rat = 2920 ppm

Animals exposed to ethylene oxide vapor for up to two years have shown an increase in the incidence of certain malignant tumors in comparison to nonexposed controls. In humans, an increased occurrence of leukemia and stomach cancer has been reported by one group of investigators who pooled results from three Swedish facilities producing or using ethylene oxide, among other materials.

A NIOSH study of sterilant workers completed in 1987 found elevated rates of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in men and decreased rates in women. The reported excesses of stomach cancer, leukemia, and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma have not been seen in other studies of workers potentially exposed to ethylene oxide in chemical manufacturing or sterilizing operations.

A recently completed follow-up of the 1987 NIOSH study found an elevated risk of blood cancers among men and breast cancers among women. The elevated risk occurred only at high exposures as defined by a combination of exposure level and years worked. The study showed no elevated cancer or disease risk for sterilant workers overall as compared to the general U.S. population.

Laboratory studies with mice have shown that acute exposure to ethylene oxide vapor at concentrations of 30 ppm and above causes testicular injury as evidenced by concentration-related increased embryonic deaths following the mating of exposed males to nonexposed females (Dominant Lethal Test).

In a developmental toxicity study with rats exposed to 225, 125, or 50 ppm of ethylene oxide vapor, there was maternal toxicity at 225 ppm and at 125 ppm. Fetotoxicity was present as reduced fetal body weight at all concentrations and as increased incidence of skeletal variants at 225 ppm and to a lesser extent at 125 ppm. There were no indications of embryotoxicity or malformations. In a two-generation oxide vapor for 6 hr/day, 5 day/week, there was parental toxicity at 33 and 100 ppm. Post-implant losses with reduction in litter size and offspring body weight were present at 33 and 100 ppm. The no-observed-effects concentrations for adult toxicity, offspring effects, and reproductive effects was 10 ppm.

12. Ecological Information

ECOTOXICITY: No known effects.

OTHER ADVERSE EFFECTS: Ethylene oxide 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: Ethylene oxide

HAZARD CLASS:	PACKING GROUP/Zone:	IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:	PRODUCT RQ:
2.3	NA*/D	UN1040	10 lb (4.54 kg)

SHIPPING LABEL(s): POISON GAS, FLAMMABLE GAS**

PLACARD (when required): POISON GAS, FLAMMABLE GAS**

*NA=Not applicable.

**The words in the POISON GAS diamond are INHALATION HAZARD.

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.

Additional Marking Requirement: INHALATION HAZARD

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: Ethylene oxide 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): 10 lb (4.54 kg)

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:** 1,000 lb (454 kg)**EHS RQ (40 CFR 355):** 10 lb (4.54 kg)**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:** Yes**PRESSURE:** Yes**DELAYED:** Yes**REACTIVITY:** Yes**FIRE:** Yes**SECTION 313:** Requires submission of annual reports of release of toxic chemicals that appear in 40 CFR Part 372.

Ethylene oxide is subject to the reporting requirements of Section 313 of Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA) and 40CFR Part 372.

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.

Ethylene oxide is listed as a regulated substance in quantities of 10,000 lb (4536 kg) or greater.

TSCA: TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT: Ethylene oxide 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.

Ethylene oxide is listed in Appendix A as a highly hazardous chemical in quantities of 5,000 lb (2270 kg) or greater.

STATE REGULATIONS:**CALIFORNIA:** Ethylene oxide is listed by California under the SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1986 (Proposition 65).**WARNING:** Ethylene oxide is a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm.*(California Health and Safety Code §25249.5 et seq.)***PENNSYLVANIA:** Ethylene oxide 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 CONDITIONS OF HANDLING, STORAGE, AND USE: Do not incinerate ethylene oxide cartridges, tanks, or other containers. OSHA regulations are in force that limit exposure to ethylene oxide (29 CFR 1910.134 and 1910.1047). These must be strictly adhered to. Users must provide for safe discharge of vented material and for destruction of liquid wastes. Discharge of aqueous (water) solutions of ethylene oxide must be regarded as constituting both personnel and flammability hazards. Because of the potential for violent decomposition, containers of ethylene oxide must be properly blanketed with an inert gas and given extraordinary protection against fire exposure. Take extreme care to avoid contamination of ethylene oxide. Contamination could lead to runaway reactions. Contingency planning is necessary for potential emergencies from spills, fire exposure, or contamination.

WARNING: Sudden release of hot organic chemical vapors or mists from process equipment operating at elevated temperature and pressure, or sudden entry of air into vacuum equipment, may result in ignition without obvious ignition sources. Published autoignition or ignition temperature values cannot be treated as safe operating temperatures in chemical processes without analysis of the actual process conditions. Any use of this product in elevated temperature processes should be thoroughly evaluated to establish and maintain safe operating conditions.

SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS: *Toxic, extremely flammable liquid and gas under pressure.*

Use only in a closed system. Use piping and equipment adequately designed to withstand pressures to be encountered. Close cylinder valve after each use; keep closed even when empty. Allow any contaminated rubber gloves and rubber clothing to air out for several days before cleaning and reuse. **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. **Never work on a pressurized system.** If there is a leak, close the cylinder valve. Blow the system down in a safe and environmentally sound manner in compliance with all federal, state, and local laws; then repair the leak. If venting to atmosphere is necessary, gas must be filtered through an emission control system that complies with all federal, state, and local regulations. **Never place a compressed gas cylinder where it may become part of an electrical circuit.**

NOTE: *Confirm compatibility with plastics prior to use.*

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 = 3
FLAMMABILITY = 4
INSTABILITY = 3
SPECIAL = None

HMIS RATINGS:

HEALTH = 1*
FLAMMABILITY = 4
PHYSICAL HAZARD = 3

**An asterisk used in conjunction with HMIS health hazard ratings designates a carcinogenic or reproductive hazard.*

STANDARD VALVE CONNECTIONS FOR U.S. AND CANADA:

THREADED:	CGA-510
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 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>
P-1	<i>Safe Handling of Compressed Gases in Containers</i>
SB-2	<i>Oxygen-Deficient Atmospheres</i>
V-1	<i>Compressed Gas Cylinder Valve Inlet and Outlet Connections</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.

Praxair MSDSs are furnished on sale or delivery by Praxair or the independent distributors and suppliers who package and sell our products. To obtain current MSDSs for these products, contact your Praxair sales representative or local distributor or supplier, or download from www.praxair.com. If you have questions regarding Praxair MSDSs, would like the form number and date of the latest MSDS, or would like the names of the Praxair suppliers in your area, phone or write the Praxair Call Center (**Phone:** 1-800-PRAXAIR; **Address:** Praxair Call Center, Praxair, Inc., PO Box 44, Tonawanda, NY 14151-0044).

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