

# SAFETY DATA SHEET

SDS Number: 003A

## ARGON

### SECTION 1: CHEMICAL PRODUCT AND COMPANY IDENTIFICATION

**Product identifier** : Argon  
**CAS No** : 7440-37-1  
**Chemical formula** : Ar  
**Synonyms** : Argon, Argon gas, Gaseous Argon, GAR  
**REACH Registration number** : Listed from annex IV/V REACH, exempted from registration

#### Relevant identified uses of the substance or mixture and uses advised against

**Use of the substance/mixture** : General Industrial and Professional use. Perform risk assessment prior to use.

**Restrictions on use** : None

#### Details of the supplier of the safety data sheet

**Physical address** : Air Products South Africa (Pty) Ltd.  
Silver Stream Business Park, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Building 3,  
10 Muswell Road South,  
Bryanston, 2191  
**Telephone** : +27 (0)11 570 5000 (Head Office)  
+27 (0)11 977 6444 (Customer Care Cylinders)  
0800 023 298 (Engineering / Bulk Services)

**Emergency telephone number (24h)** : 0800 650 315

### SECTION 2: HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION

#### Classification of the substance or mixture

Gases under pressure. Compressed gas

H280: Contains gas under pressure. May explode if heated

#### Label elements

Hazard pictograms/symbols



**Signal Word** : Warning

#### Hazard Statements:

H280: Contains gas under pressure; may explode if heated.

#### Precautionary Statement:

**Storage** : P403: Store in a well-ventilated place

#### Other hazards

High pressure gas

Can cause rapid suffocation.

Self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) may be required.

#### Environmental Effects

Not harmful.

### SECTION 3: COMPOSITION / INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS

#### Substances

COMPONENTS	EINECS/ELINCS NUMBER	CAS NUMBER	CONCENTRATION
Argon	231-147-0	7440-37-1	100%

COMPONENTS	CLASSIFICATION(CLP)	REACH Reg. #
Argon	Press. Gas (Comp.); H280	*1

\*1: Listed in annex IV/V REACH, exempted from registration.

\*2: Registration not required: Substance manufactured or imported < 1 t/y

\*3: Registration not required: substance manufactured or imported < 1 t/y for non-intermediate uses.

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

**Mixtures** : Not applicable

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## SECTION 4: FIRST AID MEASURES

### Description of first aid measures

- |                |   |  |
|----------------|---|--|
| General advice | : | Move 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    | : | In case of direct contact with eyes, seek medical advice   |
| Skin contact   | : | Adverse effects not expected from this product.  |
| Ingestion      | : | Ingestion is not considered a potential route of exposure.   |
| Inhalation     | : | Move to fresh air. If breathing has stopped or is laboured, 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. |

### Most important symptoms and effects, both acute and delayed

- |          |   |  |
|----------|---|--|
| Symptoms | : | Exposure to oxygen deficient atmosphere may cause the following symptoms: Dizziness. Salivation. Nausea. Vomiting. Loss of mobility/consciousness. |
|----------|---|--|

### Indication of any immediate medical attention and special treatment needed

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|-----------|---|---|
| Treatment | : | If exposed or concerned: Seek medical attention/advice. |
|-----------|---|---|

## SECTION 5: FIRE-FIGHTING MEASURES

### Extinguishing media

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|---|---|---|
| Suitable extinguishing media                                  | : | The product itself does not burn. Use extinguishing media appropriate for surrounding fire. |
| Extinguishing media which must not be used for safety reasons | : | Do not use water jet to extinguish.   |

### Special hazards arising from substance or mixture

Upon exposure to intense heat or flame, cylinder will vent rapidly and or rupture violently. Product is non-flammable 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.

- |                                 |   |   |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Advice for fire-fighters</b> | : | Wear self-contained breathing apparatus for fire fighting if necessary. Standard protective clothing and equipment (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) for fire fighters. Standard EN 137- Self-contained open- circuit compressed air breathing apparatus for with full face mask. Standard EN 469- protective clothing for firefighters. Standard EN 659: Protective gloves for firefighters |
|---------------------------------|---|---|

## SECTION 6: ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES

### Personal precautions protective equipment and emergency procedures

Gas/vapour heavier than air. May accumulate in confined spaces, particularly at or below ground level. 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.

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|----------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Environmental precautions</b> | : | Do not discharge into any place where its accumulation could be dangerous. Prevent further leakage or spillage if safe to do so. |
|----------------------------------|---|--|

- |   |   |                     |
|---|---|---------------------|
| <b>Methods and material for containment and cleaning up</b> | : | Ventilate the area. |
|---|---|---------------------|

Additional advice	:	If possible, stop flow of product. Increase ventilation to the release area and 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/source valve, safely vent the pressure, and purge with an inert gas before attempting repairs.
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|------------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Reference to other sections</b> | : | For more information refer to section 8 and 13 |
|------------------------------------|---|--|

SECTION 7: HANDLING AND STORAGE

Precautions for safe handling

Cylinders should be stored up right with valve protection guard in place and firmly secured to prevent falling or being knocked over. Use equipment rated for cylinder pressure. Protect cylinders from physical damage; do not drag, roll, slide or drop. Do not allow storage area temperature to exceed 50°C. Only experienced and properly instructed persons should handle compressed gases/cryogenic liquids. 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. Do not remove valve guards. 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 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. 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 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. 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. Prolonged periods of cold temperature below -30°C should be avoided.

Conditions for safe storage, including any incompatibilities

Full containers should be stored so that oldest stock is used first. Containers should be stored in a purpose-built 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. 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.

SECTION 8: EXPOSURE CONTROLS AND PERSONAL PROTECTION

Control parameters

DNEL: Derived no effect level (Workers) : None available.  
PNEC: predicted no effect concentration : None available.

Exposure controls

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 : Wear sturdy work gloves when handling gas cylinders. Standard EN 388- Protective gloves against mechanical risk.  
The breakthrough time of the selected glove(s) must be greater than the intended use period.

Eye protection : Safety glasses recommended when handling cylinders. Standard EN 166-Personal eye-protection.

Skin and body protection : Safety shoes are recommended when handling cylinders. Standard EN ISO 20345- Personal protective equipment-Safety footwear.

Special instructions for protection and hygiene : Ensure adequate ventilation, especially in confined areas.

Remarks : Simple asphyxiant.

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## SECTION 9: PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

### Information on basic physical and chemical properties

Form	: Compressed gas.
Colour	: Colourless gas
Odour	: No odour warning properties.
Molecular Weight	: 40 g/mol
Relative vapour density	: 1.38 (air = 1) Heavier than air
Vapour pressure	: Not applicable.
Density	: 0.0017 g/cm <sup>3</sup> at 21 °C Note: (as vapour)
Relative density	: Not applicable
Boiling point/range	: -185.8 °C
Critical temperature	: -122.4 °C
Melting point/range	: -189.3 °C
Water solubility	: 0.0673g/l

Partition coefficient n-octanol/water [log Kow]	: Not applicable
pH	: Not applicable
Viscosity	: No reliable data available
Particle characteristics	: Not applicable
Upper and Lower explosion /flammability limits	: No data available
Flash point	: Not applicable
Auto-ignition temperature	: Not known
Decomposition temperature	: Not applicable

### Other information

Explosive properties	: Not applicable
Oxidizing properties	: No oxidising properties.
Odour threshold	: Odour threshold is subjective and inadequate to warn of overexposure
Evaporation rate	: Not applicable
Flammability (solid, gas)	: Non-flammable. Upper flammability limit : Not applicable
Lower flammability limit	: Not applicable

## SECTION 10: STABILITY AND REACTIVITY

Reactivity	: No reactivity hazard other than the effects described in the sub sections below
Chemical Stability	: Stable under normal conditions.
Possibility of hazardous reactions	: No data available
Conditions to avoid	: None under recommended storage and handling conditions. See section 7
Incompatible materials	: No data available
Hazardous decomposition products	: Under normal conditions of storage and use, hazardous decomposition products should not be produced.

## SECTION 11: TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION

### Information on toxicological information

#### Likely routes of exposure

Effects on eye	: In case of direct contact with eyes, seek medical advice
Effects on Skin	: Adverse effects not expected from this product
Inhalation effects	: In high concentrations may cause asphyxiation. Asphyxiation may bring about unconsciousness without warning and so rapidly that victim maybe unable to protect themselves.
Ingestion effects	: Ingestion is not considered a potential route of exposure.
Symptoms	: Exposure to oxygen deficient atmosphere may cause the following symptoms: dizziness. Salivation. Nausea. Vomiting. Loss of mobility/consciousness.

#### Acute Toxicity

Acute oral toxicity	: No data available on the product itself
Acute inhalation toxicity	: No data available on the product itself
Acute dermal toxicity	: No data available on the product itself
Skin corrosion/irritation	: No data available
Serious eye damage Irritation	: No data available
Sensitization	: No data available

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## Chronic toxicity or effects from long term exposure

Carcinogenicity	:	No data available
Reproductive toxicity	:	No data available on the product itself
Germ cell mutagenicity	:	No data available on the product itself
Specific target organ systemic toxicity (single exposure)	:	No data available
Specific target organ systemic toxicity (repeated exposure)	:	No data available
Aspiration hazard	:	No data available

## SECTION 12: ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

### Toxicity

Aquatic toxicity	:	No data is available on the product itself.
Toxicity to other organisms	:	No data available on the product itself

### Persistence and degradability

No data available

**Bio-accumulative potential** : Refer to section 9 “partition coefficient (n-octanol/water)”

**Mobility in soil** : Because of its high volatility, the product itself is unlikely to cause ground pollution.

### Other adverse effects

This product has no known eco-toxicological effects.

**Effect on the ozone layer** : No known effects from this product.

Ozone Depleting Potential : None

**Effect on the global warming** : No known effects from this product.

Global Warming Potential : None

## SECTION 13: DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS

<b>Waste treatment methods</b>	:	Contact supplier if guidance is required. Return unused product in original cylinder to supplier.
Contaminated packaging	:	Return cylinder to supplier.

## SECTION 14: TRANSPORT INFORMATION

### UN number or ID number

UN/ID No. : UN1006

### UN proper shipping name

Transport by road/rail (ADR/RID)	:	ARGON, COMPRESSED
Transport by air (ICAO-TI / IATA-DGR)	:	Argon, compressed
Transport by sea (IMDG)	:	ARGON, COMPRESSED

## Transport hazard class(es)

Label(s) : 2.2

### Transport by road/rail (ADR/RID)

Class or Division	:	2
ADR/RID/ADN Haz ID no.	:	20
Tunnel Code	:	(E)

### Transport by air (ICAO-TI / IATA-DGR)

Class or Division : 2.2

### Transport by sea (IMDG)

Class or Division : 2.2

## Packing group

Transport by road/rail (ADR/RID)	:	Not applicable.
Transport by air (ICAO-TI / IATA-DGR)	:	Not applicable.
Transport by sea (IMDG)	:	Not applicable.

## Environmental hazards

### Transport by road/rail (ADR/RID)

Marine Pollutant : No

### Transport by air (ICAO-TI / IATA-DGR)

Marine Pollutant : No

### Transport by sea (IMDG)

Marine Pollutant	:	No
Segregation Group	:	None

## Special precautions for user

### Transport by air (ICAO-TI / IATA-DGR)

Passenger and Cargo Aircraft	:	Transport allowed.
Cargo Aircraft only	:	Transport allowed.

## 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. Ensure compliance with applicable regulations.

Before transporting product containers ensure that they are firmly secured and: Cylinder valve is closed and not leaking, valve outlet cap nut or plug (where provided) is correctly fitted, and the valve protection device (where provided) is correctly fitted.

The transportation information is not intended to convey all specific regulatory data relating to this material. For complete transportation information, contact an Air Products customer service representative.

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## SECTION 15: REGULATORY INFORMATION

OHS Act	:	Occupational Health and Safety Act 85 of 1993 (and Regulations)
SANS 11014	:	Safety data sheet for chemical products- Content and order of sections
SANS 10234	:	Globally Harmonized System of classification and labelling of chemicals (GHS)
SANS 10265	:	The classification and labelling of dangerous substances and preparations for sale and handling
SANS 10019	:	Transportable containers for compressed, dissolved and liquefied gases – Basic design, manufacture, use and maintenance.
SANS 1518	:	Transport of dangerous goods – Design, construction, testing, approval and maintenance of road vehicles and portable tanks
SANS 10228	:	The identification and classification of dangerous goods for transport
SANS 10229-1&2	:	Transport of dangerous goods – Packaging and large packaging for road and rail transport Part 1: Packaging / Part 2: Large Packaging
SANS 10263-2	:	The warehousing of dangerous goods Part 2: The storage and handling of gas cylinders.

## SECTION 16: OTHER INFORMATION

Ensure all national/local regulations are observed.

### Hazard Statements

H280: Contains gas under pressure, may explode if heated.

### Indication of Method

Gases under pressure. Compressed gas. Contains gas under pressure, may explode if heated.

## Abbreviations and acronyms

ATE – Acute Toxicity Estimate  
CLP – Classification Labelling Packaging Regulation; Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008  
REACH – Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006  
EINECS – European Inventory of Existing Commercial Chemical Substances  
ELINCS – European List of Notified Chemical Substances  
CAS# - Chemical Abstract Service number  
PPE – Personal Protective Clothing  
Kow – octanol-water partition coefficient  
LC50- Lethal Concentration to 50% of a test population  
LD50 – Lethal Dose to 50% of a test population (Median Lethal Dose)  
OEL – Occupational Exposure Limit  
PBT – Persistent Bio-accumulative and Toxic  
vPvB - Very Persistent and Very Bio-accumulative  
STOT – Specific Target Organ Toxicity  
EN – European Standard  
UN – United Nations  
ADR – European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road  
IATA – International Air Transport Association  
IMDG – International Maritime Dangerous Goods  
RID – Regulations concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail

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.

*Note: This SDS is valid for five years from the date of publishing and will be reviewed once every five years as per Section 14A of the Hazards Chemical Agents Regulations.*

(Reference [www.airproducts.com](http://www.airproducts.com):- Air Products S.A./N.V. Belgium Argon  
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