AIR LIQUIDE

MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

Prepared to U.S. OSHA, CMA, ANSI and Canadian WHMIS Standards

1. PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION

CHEMICAL NAME; CLASS: METHANE

SYNONYMS: Methyl Hydride; Marsh Gas
CHEMICAL FAMILY: Alkane (hydrocarbon)
FORMULA: CH_4

	Document Number: 40008 Item Numbers: 107A, 107B
PRODUCT USE:	For fuel and synthetic chemical use
SUPPLIER/MANUFACTURER'S NAME:	AIR LIQUIDE AMERICA CORPORATION
ADDRESS:	11426 Fairmont Parkway LA Porte, TX 77571-6000
EMERGENCY PHONE:	CHEMTREC: 1-800-424-9300
BUSINESS PHONE:	General MSDS Information: 1-713/868-0440 Fax on Demand: 1-800/231-1366

2. COMPOSITION and INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS

CHEMICAL NAME	CAS #	mole %	EXPOSURE LIMITS IN AIR					
			ACGIH		OSHA			OTHER
			TLV ppm	STEL ppm	PEL ppm	STEL ppm	IDLH ppm	
Methane	74-82-8	> 98%	There are no specific exposure limits for Methane. Methane is a simple asphyxiant (SA). Oxygen levels should be maintained above 19.5%.					
Maximum Impurities		< 2.0%	None of the trace impurities in this product contribute significantly to the hazards associated with the product. All hazard information pertinent to this product has been provided in this Material Safety Data Sheet, per the requirements of the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard (29 CFR 1910.1200) and State equivalents standards.					

NE = Not Established C = Ceiling Limit

NOTE: all WHMIS required information is included. It is located in appropriate sections based on the ANSI Z400.1-1993 format.

3. HAZARD IDENTIFICATION

EMERGENCY OVERVIEW: This product is a colorless, flammable gas. The gas poses a serious fire hazard when accidentally released. Flame or high temperature impinging on a localized area of the cylinder of this product can cause the cylinder to burst or rupture without activating the cylinder's relief devices. The gas is lighter than air, and may spread long distances. Distant ignition and flashback are possible. Methane is an asphyxiant and presents a significant health hazard by displacing the oxygen in the atmosphere. Provide adequate fire protection during emergency response situations.

SYMPTOMS OF OVER-EXPOSURE BY ROUTE OF EXPOSURE: The most significant route of over-exposure for this product is by inhalation.

INHALATION: High concentrations of this gas can cause an oxygen-deficient environment. It should be noted that before suffocation could occur, the lower flammability limit of Methane in air would be exceeded; possibly causing an oxygen-deficient and explosive atmosphere. Individuals breathing an oxygen deficient atmosphere may experience symptoms which include headaches, ringing in ears, dizziness, drowsiness, unconsciousness, nausea, vomiting, and depression of all the senses. Under some circumstances of over-exposure, death may occur. The following effects associated with various levels of oxygen are as follows:

CONCENTRATION	SYMPTOM OF EXPOSURE
12-16% Oxygen:	Breathing and pulse rate increased, muscular coordination slightly disturbed.
10-14% Oxygen:	Emotional upset, abnormal fatigue, disturbed respiration.
10% Oxygen:	Nausea and vomiting, collapse or loss of consciousness.
Below 6%:	Convulsive movements, possible respiratory collapse, and death.

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

HEALTH	(BLUE)	1
FLAMMABILITY	(RED)	4
REACTIVITY	(YELLOW)	0
PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT		B

EYES RESPIRATORY HANDS BODY

See Section 8

For routine industrial applications

HEALTH EFFECTS OR RISKS FROM EXPOSURE: An Explanation in Lay Terms. Over-exposure to this gas mixture may cause the following health effects:

ACUTE: The most significant hazard associated with this product is inhalation of oxygen-deficient atmospheres. Symptoms of oxygen deficiency include respiratory difficulty, ringing in ears, headaches, shortness of breath, wheezing, headache, dizziness, indigestion, nausea, and, at high concentrations, unconsciousness or death may occur. The skin of a victim of over-exposure may have a blue color.

CHRONIC: There are currently no known adverse health effects associated with chronic exposure to the components of this compressed gas.

TARGET ORGANS: Respiratory system.

4. FIRST-AID MEASURES

RESCUERS SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO RETRIEVE VICTIMS OF EXPOSURE TO THIS PRODUCT WITHOUT ADEQUATE PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT. At a minimum, Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus and Fire-Retardant clothing must be worn. Adequate fire protection must be provided during rescue situations.

Remove victim(s) to fresh air, as quickly as possible. Only trained personnel should administer supplemental oxygen and/or cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, if necessary.

tim(s) must be taken for medical attention. Rescuers should be taken for medical attention, if necessary. ake copy of label and MSDS to physician or other health professional with victim(s).

5. FIRE-FIGHTING MEASURES

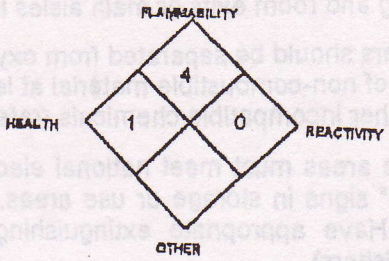
FLASH POINT, (method): -306°F (-187.7°C)

AUTOIGNITION TEMPERATURE: 650°C (1202°F)

FLAMMABLE LIMITS (in air by volume, %):

Lower (LEL): 5%
Upper (UEL): 15%

NFPA RATING



FIRE EXTINGUISHING MATERIALS: Extinguish Methane fires by shutting-off the source of the gas. Use water spray to cool fire-exposed containers, structures, and equipment.

UNUSUAL FIRE AND EXPLOSION HAZARDS: When involved in a fire, this material may decompose and produce toxic gases including carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide.

DANGER! Fires impinging (direct flame) on the outside surface of unprotected cylinders of this product can be very dangerous. Exposure to fire could cause a catastrophic failure of the cylinder releasing the contents into a fireball and explosion of released gas. The resulting fire and explosion can result in severe equipment damage and personnel injury or death over a large area around the cylinder. For massive fires in large areas, use unmanned hose holder or monitor nozzles; if this is not possible, withdraw from area and allow fire to burn.

Explosion Sensitivity to Mechanical Impact: Not sensitive.
Explosion Sensitivity to Static Discharge: Static discharge may cause this product to ignite explosively, if released.

SPECIAL FIRE-FIGHTING PROCEDURES: Structural fire-fighters must wear Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus and full protective equipment. If water is not available for cooling or protection of cylinder exposures, evacuate the area. The North American Emergency Response Guidebook (Guide #115) recommends 0.5 miles. Other information for pre-planning can be found in the American Petroleum Institute Publications 2510 and 2510A.

6. ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES

LEAK RESPONSE: Evacuate immediate area. Uncontrolled releases should be responded to by trained personnel using pre-planned procedures. Proper protective equipment should be used. In case of a gas release, clear the affected area, protect people, and respond with trained personnel.

Eliminate any possible sources of ignition, and provide maximum explosion-proof ventilation. If the gas is leaking from cylinder or valve, contact the supplier. Adequate fire protection must be provided. Use only non-sparking tools and equipment during the response.

Minimum Personal Protective Equipment should be Level B: **fire-retardant protective clothing, gloves and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus.** Use only non-sparking tools and equipment. Locate and seal the source of the leaking gas. Protect personnel attempting the shut-off with water-spray. Allow the gas to dissipate. Combustible gas concentration must be below 10% of the LEL (5%) prior to entry. Monitor the surrounding area for combustible gas levels and oxygen level. The atmosphere must have at least 19.5 percent oxygen before personnel can be allowed in the area without Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus. Attempt to close the main source valve prior to entering the area. If this does not stop the release (or if it is not possible to reach the valve), allow the gas to release in-place or remove it to a safe area and allow the gas to be released there.

THIS IS AN EXTREMELY FLAMMABLE GAS. Protection of all personnel and the area must be maintained.

7. HANDLING and USE

WORK PRACTICES AND HYGIENE PRACTICES: Be aware of any signs of dizziness or fatigue; exposures to fatal concentrations of this product could occur without any significant warning symptoms. Non-sparking tools should be used.

STORAGE AND HANDLING PRACTICES: Specific requirements are listed in NFPA 58. Cylinders should be stored upright (with valve-protection cap in place) and firmly secured to prevent falling or being knocked over. Cylinders can be stored in the open, but in such cases, should be protected against extremes of weather and from the dampness of the ground to prevent rusting. Cylinders should be stored in dry, well-ventilated areas away from sources of heat, ignition and direct sunlight. Keep storage area clear of materials which can burn.

7. HANDLING and USE (Continued)

Do not allow area where cylinders are stored to exceed 52 °C (125 °F). Store containers away from heavily trafficked areas and emergency exits. Store away from process and production areas, away from elevators, building and room exits or main aisles leading to exits. Protect cylinders against physical damage.

Cylinders should be separated from oxygen cylinders, or other oxidizers, by a minimum distance of 20 ft., or by a barrier of non-combustible material at least 5 ft. high, having a fire-resistance rating of at least 0.5 hours. Isolate from other incompatible chemicals (refer to Section 10, Stability and Reactivity).

Storage areas must meet national electrical codes for Class 1 Hazardous Areas. Post "No Smoking or Open Flames" signs in storage or use areas. Consider installation of leak detection and alarm for storage and use areas. Have appropriate extinguishing equipment in the storage area (i.e. sprinkler system, portable fire extinguishers).

Keep the smallest amount on-site as is necessary. Full and empty cylinders should be segregated. Use a first-in, first-out inventory system to prevent full containers from being stored for long periods of time.

Use non-sparking ventilation systems, approved explosion-proof equipment, and appropriate electrical systems. Electrical equipment used in gas-handling operations, or located in storage areas, should be non-sparking or explosion proof. Use a check valve in the discharge line to prevent hazardous backflow. Never tamper with pressure relief devices in valves and cylinders.

SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS FOR HANDLING GAS CYLINDERS: Compressed gases can present significant safety hazards. The following rules are applicable to work situations in which cylinders are being used:

Before Use: Move cylinders with a suitable hand-truck. Do not drag, slide or roll cylinders. Do not drop cylinders or permit them to strike each other. Secure cylinders firmly. Leave the valve protection cap (where provided) in-place until cylinder is ready for use.

During Use: Use designated CGA fittings and other support equipment. Do not use adapters. Use piping and equipment adequately designed to withstand pressures to be encountered. Do not heat cylinder by any means to increase the discharge rate of the product from the cylinder. Do not use oils or grease on gas-handling fittings or equipment. Do not "crack" valve open before connecting it, since self-ignition may occur. Leak check system with leak detection solution, never with flame. Immediately contact the supplier if there are any difficulties associated with operating cylinder valve. Never insert an object (e.g. wrench, screwdriver, pry bar, etc.) into valve cap openings. Doing so may damage valve, casing a leak to occur. Use an adjustable strap wrench to remove over-tight or rusted caps. Never strike an arc on a compressed gas cylinder or make a cylinder part of an electric circuit.

After Use: Close main cylinder valve. Valves should be closed tightly. Replace valve protection cap. Mark empty cylinders "EMPTY".

NOTE: Use only DOT or ASME code containers designed for flammable gas storage. Earth-ground and bond all lines and equipment associated with this product.

STANDARD VALVE CONNECTIONS FOR U.S. AND CANADA: Use the proper connections, DO NOT USE ADAPTERS:

THREADED:	0-500 psig	CGA 510
	0-3000 psig	CGA 350
	3001-5000 psig	CGA 695
	5501-7500 psig	CGA 703

PIN-INDEXED YOKE: Not Applicable.

ULTRA HIGH INTEGRITY: Not Applicable.

PROTECTIVE PRACTICES DURING MAINTENANCE OF CONTAMINATED EQUIPMENT: Follow practices indicated in Section 6 (Accidental Release Measures). Make certain application equipment is locked and tagged-out safely. Purge gas handling equipment with inert gas (i.e. nitrogen) before attempting repairs. Always use product in areas where adequate ventilation is provided.

8. EXPOSURE CONTROLS - PERSONAL PROTECTION

VENTILATION AND ENGINEERING CONTROLS: Use with adequate ventilation. Provide natural or explosion-proof ventilation adequate to ensure Methane does not reach its lower flammability limit of 5%. Local exhaust ventilation is preferred, because it prevents gas dispersion into the work place by eliminating it at its source. If appropriate, install automatic monitoring equipment to detect the level of flammable gas.

RESPIRATORY PROTECTION: Maintain oxygen levels above 19.5% in the workplace. Use supplied air respiratory protection if oxygen levels are below 19.5% (air-purifying respirators will not function) or during emergency response to a release of this product. During an emergency situation, before entering the area, check for flammable gas level as well as oxygen-deficient atmospheres. If respiratory protection is required, follow the requirements of the Federal OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard (29 CFR 1910.134), or equivalent State standards.

EYE PROTECTION: Safety glasses.

HAND PROTECTION: Wear leather gloves when handling cylinders of this product. Otherwise, wear glove protection appropriate to the specific operation for which this product is used. Use low-temperature protective gloves when working with containers of Liquid Methane.

BODY PROTECTION: Use body protection appropriate for task. Cotton clothing is recommended for use to prevent static electric build-up. Safety shoes are recommended when handling cylinders. Transfer of large quantities under pressure may require use of fire retardant clothing.

9. PHYSICAL and CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

GAS DENSITY @ 60°F (15.6°C) and 1 atm: 0.042 35 lb/ft^3

BOILING POINT: -258.7°F (-161°C)

FREEZING/MELTING POINT @ 10 psig: -182°C (-296.5°F)

SPECIFIC GRAVITY (air = 1) @ 70°F (21.1°C): 0.555

pH: Not applicable.

SOLUBILITY IN WATER vol/vol at 100°F (37.8°C): Very slight. MOLECULAR WEIGHT: 16.042

EVAPORATION RATE (nBuAc = 1): Not applicable.

EXPANSION RATIO: Not applicable.

ODOR THRESHOLD: Not determined.

SPECIFIC VOLUME (ft^3/lb): 23.6

VAPOR PRESSURE @ 70°F (21.1°C) psig: Not applicable.

COEFFICIENT WATER/OIL DISTRIBUTION: Not applicable.

APPEARANCE AND COLOR: Colorless, odorless gas.

HOW TO DETECT THIS SUBSTANCE (warning properties): There are no distinct warning properties of this gas. In terms of leak detection, fittings and joints can be painted with a soap solution to detect leaks, which will be indicated by a bubble formation.

NOTE: This gas is lighter than air and must not be allowed to accumulate in elevated locations

10. STABILITY and REACTIVITY

STABILITY: Stable.

DECOMPOSITION PRODUCTS: : When ignited in the presence of oxygen, this gas will burn to produce carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide.

MATERIALS WITH WHICH SUBSTANCE IS INCOMPATIBLE: Strong oxidizers (i.e. chlorine, bromine pentafluoride, oxygen, oxygen difluoride, and nitrogen trifluoride).

HAZARDOUS POLYMERIZATION: Will not occur.

CONDITIONS TO AVOID: Contact with incompatible materials and exposure to heat, sparks and other sources of ignition. Cylinders exposed to high temperatures or direct flame can rupture or burst.

11. TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION

TOXICITY DATA: There is no specific toxicology data for Methane. Methane is a simple asphyxiant, which acts to displace oxygen in the environment.

SUSPECTED CANCER AGENT: Methane is not found on the following lists: FEDERAL OSHA Z LIST, NTP, IARC, CAL/OSHA; therefore is not considered to be, nor suspected to be a cancer-causing agent by these agencies.

SENSITIZATION TO THE PRODUCT: Methane is not known to cause sensitization in humans.

IRRITANCY OF PRODUCT: This product is not irritating; however, contact with rapidly expanding gases can cause frostbite to exposed tissue.

REPRODUCTIVE TOXICITY INFORMATION: Listed below is information concerning the effects of Methane on the human reproductive system.

Mutagenicity: No mutagenicity effects have been described for. Methane
Embryotoxcity: No embryotoxic effects have been described for Methane.
Teratogenicity: No teratogenicity effects have been described for Methane.
Reproductive Toxicity: No reproductive toxicity effects have been described for Methane.

A mutagen is a chemical which causes permanent changes to genetic material (DNA) such that the changes will propagate through generation lines. An embryotoxin is a chemical which causes damage to a developing embryo (i.e. within the first eight weeks of pregnancy in humans), but the damage does not propagate across generational lines. A teratogen is a chemical which causes damage to a developing fetus, but the damage does not propagate across generational lines. A reproductive toxin is any substance which interferes in any way with the reproductive process.

MEDICAL CONDITIONS AGGRAVATED BY EXPOSURE: Acute or chronic respiratory conditions may be aggravated by over-exposure to Methane.

BIOLOGICAL EXPOSURE INDICES (BEIs): Currently, Biological Exposure Indices (BEIs) are not applicable for Methane.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO PHYSICIANS: Administer oxygen, if necessary; treat symptoms; reduce or eliminate exposure.

12. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

ENVIRONMENTAL STABILITY: This gas will be dissipated rapidly in well-ventilated areas.

EFFECT OF MATERIAL ON PLANTS or ANIMALS: Any adverse effect on animals would be related to oxygen deficient environments. No adverse effect is anticipated to occur to plant-life.

EFFECT OF CHEMICAL ON AQUATIC LIFE: No evidence is currently available on this product's effects on aquatic life.

13. DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS

PREPARING WASTES FOR DISPOSAL: Waste disposal must be in accordance with appropriate Federal, State, and local regulations. Return cylinders with any residual product to Air Liquide. Do not dispose of locally.

14. TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

THIS MATERIAL IS HAZARDOUS AS DEFINED BY 49 CFR 172.101 BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

PROPER SHIPPING NAME:	Methane, compressed
HAZARD CLASS NUMBER and DESCRIPTION:	2.1 (Flammable Gas)
UN IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:	UN 1971
PACKING GROUP:	Not applicable.
DOT LABEL(S) REQUIRED:	Flammable Gas

NORTH AMERICAN EMERGENCY RESPONSE GUIDEBOOK NUMBER (1996): 115

14. TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION (Continued)

MARINE POLLUTANT: Methane is not classified by the DOT as Marine Pollutants (as defined by 49 CFR 172.101, Appendix B).

SPECIAL SHIPPING INFORMATION: Cylinders should be transported in a secure position, in a well-ventilated vehicle. The transportation of compressed gas cylinders in automobiles or in closed-body vehicles present serious safety hazards and should be discouraged.

NOTE: Shipment of compressed gas cylinders which have not been filled with the owners consent is a violation of Federal law (49 CFR, Part 173.301 (b).

TRANSPORT CANADA TRANSPORTATION OF DANGEROUS GOODS REGULATIONS: THIS MATERIAL IS CONSIDERED AS DANGEROUS GOODS. Use the above information for the preparation of Canadian Shipments.

15. REGULATORY INFORMATION

SARA REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: This product is subject to the reporting requirements of Sections 302, 304 and 313 of Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act., as follows:

COMPOUND	SARA 302	SARA 304	SARA 313
Methane	NO	NO	NO

SARA Threshold Planning Quantity: Not applicable.

TSCA INVENTORY STATUS: Methane is listed on the TSCA Inventory.

CERCLA REPORTABLE QUANTITY (RQ): Not applicable.

OTHER U.S. FEDERAL REGULATIONS:

- Methane does not contain any Class I or Class II ozone depleting chemicals (40 CFR part 82).
- Methane is subject to the reporting requirements of Section 112(r) of the Clean Air Act. The Threshold Quantity for of this gas is 10,000 pounds.
- Depending on specific operations involving the use of this product, the regulations of the Process Safety Management of Highly Hazardous Chemicals may be applicable (29 CFR 1910.119). Under this regulation Methane is not listed in Appendix A, however, any process that involves a flammable gas on-site, in one location, in quantities of 10,000 lbs (4,553 kg) or greater is covered under this regulation unless it is used as a fuel.
- Methane is listed as a Regulated Substance, per 40 CFR, Part 68, of the Risk Management for Chemical Releases as a flammable substance. The threshold quantity for Isobutane under this regulation is 10,000 lbs.

OTHER CANADIAN REGULATIONS: Methane is categorized as a Controlled Product, Hazard Classes A, and B1 as per the Controlled Product Regulations.

STATE REGULATORY INFORMATION: Methane is covered under specific State regulations, as denoted below:

Alaska - Designated Toxic and Hazardous Substances: Methane.
California - Permissible Exposure Limits for Chemical Contaminants: Methane.
Florida - Substance List: No.
Illinois - Toxic Substance List: Methane.
Kansas - Section 302/313 List: No.
Massachusetts - Substance List: Methane.
Minnesota - List of Hazardous Substances: Methane.
Missouri - Employer Information/Toxic Substance List: Methane.
New Jersey - Right to Know Hazardous Substance List: Methane.
North Dakota - List of Hazardous Chemicals, Reportable Quantities: No.
Pennsylvania - Hazardous Substance List: Methane.
Rhode Island - Hazardous Substance List: Methane.
Texas - Hazardous Substance List: No.
West Virginia - Hazardous Substance List: No.
Wisconsin - Toxic and Hazardous Substances: No.

CALIFORNIA PROPOSITION 65: Methane is not on the California Proposition 65 lists.

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.

Further information can be found in the following pamphlets published by: Compressed Gas Association Inc. (CGA), 1725 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1004, Arlington, VA 22202-4102. Telephone: (703) 412-0900.

P-1	*"Safe Handling of Compressed Gases in Containers"*
P-14	*"Accident Prevention in Oxygen-Rich and Oxygen Deficient Atmospheres"*
SB-8	*"Use of Oxy-fuel Gas Welding and Cutting Apparatus"*
SB-2	*"Oxygen Deficient Atmospheres"*
	"Handbook of Compressed Gases"

PREPARED BY:

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AIR LIQUIDE

This Material Safety Data Sheet is offered pursuant to OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard, 29 CFR, 1910.1200. Other government regulations must be reviewed for applicability to this product. To the best of Air Liquide America Corporation's knowledge, the information contained herein is reliable and accurate as of this date; however, accuracy, suitability or completeness are not guaranteed and no warranties of any type, either express or implied, are provided. The information contained herein relates only to this specific product. If this product is combined with other materials, all component properties must be considered. Data may be changed from time to time. Be sure to consult the latest edition.