



## MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

PRODUCT NAME: METHANE

### 1. Product and Company Identification

BOC Gases,  
Division of,  
The BOC Group, Inc.  
575 Mountain Avenue  
Murray Hill, NJ 07974

BOC Gases  
Division of  
BOC Canada Limited  
5975 Falbourne Street, Unit 2  
Mississauga, Ontario L5R 3W6

TELEPHONE NUMBER: (908) 464-8100

24-HOUR EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER:  
CHEMTREC (800) 424-9300

TELEPHONE NUMBER: (905) 501-1700

24-HOUR EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER:  
(905) 501-0802  
EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN NO: 2-0101

PRODUCT NAME: METHANE

CHEMICAL NAME: CH<sub>4</sub>

COMMON NAMES/SYNONYMS: Methyl Hydride

TDG (Canada) CLASSIFICATION: 2.1

WHMIS CLASSIFICATION: A, B1

PREPARED BY: Loss Control (908)464-8100/(905)501-1700

PREPARATION DATE: 6/1/95

REVIEW DATES: 06/18/04

### 2. Composition, Information on Ingredients

#### EXPOSURE LIMITS<sup>1</sup>:

INGREDIENT	% VOLUME	PEL-OSHA <sup>2</sup>	TLV-ACGIH <sup>3</sup>	LD <sub>50</sub> or LC <sub>50</sub> Route/Species
Methane FORMULA: CH <sub>4</sub> CAS: 74-82-8 RTECS #: PA1490000	100	None Established	1000 ppm	LC <sub>50</sub> : 900,000 ppm Inhalation/mouse (no time given)

<sup>1</sup> Refer to individual state or provincial regulations, as applicable, for limits which may be more stringent than those listed here.

<sup>2</sup> As stated in 29 CFR 1910, Subpart Z (revised July 1, 1993)

<sup>3</sup> As stated in the ACGIH 2004 Threshold Limit Values for Chemical Substances and Physical Agents.

OSHA Regulatory Status: This material is classified as hazardous under OSHA regulations.

### 3. Hazards Identification

#### EMERGENCY OVERVIEW

Odorless, colorless flammable gas. Dangerous fire and explosion hazard. Avoid heat, sparks and flames. Inhalation of high concentrations may cause central nervous system (CNS) depression and cardiac sensitization. Rapidly expanding gas may cause frostbite. Contents under pressure. Use and store below 125 °F.

PRODUCT NAME: METHANE

**ROUTE OF ENTRY:**

Skin Contact No	Skin Absorption No	Eye Contact No	Inhalation Yes	Ingestion No
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**HEALTH EFFECTS:**

Exposure Limits Yes	Irritant No	Sensitization No
Teratogen No	Reproductive Hazard No	Mutagen No
Synergistic Effects		
None reported		

Carcinogenicity: -- NTP: No IARC: No OSHA: No

**EYE EFFECTS:** Contact with rapidly expanding gas near the point of release may cause frostbite.

**SKIN EFFECTS:** Contact with rapidly expanding gas near the point of release may cause frostbite with redness, skin color change to gray or white, and blistering.

**INGESTION EFFECTS:** None known. Ingestion is unlikely.

**INHALATION EFFECTS:** Inhalation of high concentrations may cause central nervous system depression with dizziness, disorientation, incoordination, nausea, and narcosis. High concentrations may also cause cardiac sensitization resulting in irregular heartbeat and may make the individual more susceptible to cardiac effects of substances such as epinephrine and adrenaline.

**MEDICAL CONDITIONS AGGRAVATED BY EXPOSURE:** None known.

**POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:** Not expected to be toxic to fish and wildlife.

#### **4. First Aid Measures**

**EYES:** None required for gas. If frostbite is suspected, flush eyes with cool water for 15 minutes and obtain immediate medical attention.

**SKIN:** None required for gas. For frostbite, immerse skin in lukewarm water. DO NOT USE HOT WATER. Obtain medical attention.

**INGESTION:** Not normally required.

**INHALATION:** PROMPT MEDICAL ATTENTION IS MANDATORY IN ALL CASES OF OVEREXPOSURE TO THIS PRODUCT. RESCUE PERSONNEL SHOULD BE EQUIPPED WITH SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS. Victims should be assisted to an uncontaminated area and inhale fresh air. Quick removal from the contaminated area is most important. If breathing has stopped administer artificial resuscitation and supplemental oxygen. Further treatment should be symptomatic and supportive. Keep victim warm and quiet.

**Note to Physician:** Monitor cardiac rhythm and treat arrhythmias as necessary. DO NOT administer stimulants such as epinephrine or adrenaline.

PRODUCT NAME: METHANE

## 5. Fire Fighting Measures

Conditions of Flammability: Flammable gas		
Flash point: -306°F (-188°C)	Method: Closed cup	Autoignition Temperature: 1076°F (580°C)
LEL(%): 5	UEL(%): 15	
Hazardous combustion products: Carbon dioxide, Carbon monoxide		
Sensitivity to mechanical shock: None		
Sensitivity to static discharge: Not Available		

**FIRE AND EXPLOSION HAZARDS:** Flammable gas. Rapid flame propagation and flashback possible. Cylinder may vent rapidly or rupture violently from pressure when involved in a fire situation.

**EXTINGUISHING MEDIA:** Carbon dioxide, dry chemical or water spray.

**FIRE FIGHTING INSTRUCTIONS:** If possible, stop the flow of gas. Inerting the atmosphere to reduce oxygen levels may extinguish flame, allowing capping of leaking container. Do not attempt this unless specifically trained. Reduce the rate of flow and inject an inert gas, if possible, before completely stopping the flow to prevent flashback. Do not extinguish the fire until the supply is shut off as otherwise an explosive re-ignition may occur. If the fire is extinguished and the flow of gas continues, use increased ventilation to prevent build-up of explosive atmosphere. Use non-sparking tools to close container valves.

Use water spray to cool surrounding containers. Be cautious of a Boiling Liquid Evaporating Vapor Explosion, BLEVE, if flame is impinging on surrounding containers. Direct 500 GPM water stream onto containers above liquid level with remote monitors. Limit the number of personnel in proximity of fire and evacuate surrounding areas in all directions.

Firefighters should wear respiratory protection (SCBA) and full turnout or Bunker gear. Continue to cool fire-exposed cylinders until well after flames are extinguished.

## 6. Accidental Release Measures

Immediately extinguish all ignition sources. No smoking, flames, sparks or flares in hazard area. Evacuate all personnel from affected area. Use appropriate protective equipment (See Section 8). Increase ventilation to prevent build up of a flammable/explosive atmosphere. Stop the flow of gas or remove cylinder to outdoor location if this can be done without risk. Ventilate enclosed areas. If leak is in user's equipment, be certain to purge piping with inert gas prior to attempting repairs. If leak is in container or container valve, contact the appropriate emergency telephone number listed in Section 1 or call your closest BOC location.

## 7. Handling and Storage

**Electrical Classification:** Not Available

Earth ground and bond all lines and equipment associated with the system. All equipment should be non-sparking or explosion-proof. Methane is non-corrosive and may be used with any common structural material.

Use only in well-ventilated areas. Valve protection caps must remain in place unless container is secured with valve outlet piped to use point. Do not drag, slide or roll cylinders. Use a suitable hand truck for cylinder movement. Use a pressure regulator when connecting cylinder to lower pressure piping or systems.

**PRODUCT NAME: METHANE**

Do not heat cylinder by any means to increase the discharge rate of product from the cylinder. Use a check valve or trap in the discharge line to prevent hazardous back flow into the cylinder. Do not insert any object (i.e.: screwdriver) into valve cap openings as this can damage the valve causing leakage.

Protect cylinders from physical damage. Store in cool, dry, well-ventilated area of non-combustible construction away from heavily trafficked areas and emergency exits. Do not allow the temperature where cylinders are stored to exceed 125°F (52°C). Cylinders should be stored upright and firmly secured to prevent falling or being knocked over. Full and empty cylinders should be segregated. Use a "first in-first out" inventory system to prevent full cylinders from being stored for excessive periods of time. Post "NO SMOKING" signs in use or storage areas. There should be no source for accidental ignition in areas where this product is being used or stored. Outside or detached storage is preferred.

For additional storage recommendations, consult Compressed Gas Association's Pamphlet P-1..

Never carry a compressed gas cylinder or a container of a gas in cryogenic liquid form in an enclosed space such as a car trunk, van or station wagon. A leak can result in a fire, explosion, asphyxiation or a toxic exposure.

## **8. Exposure Controls, Personal Protection**

**ENGINEERING CONTROLS:** Use local exhaust and general ventilation systems to control air contaminants at or below acceptable exposure guidelines. Small quantities can be handled in forced ventilation hoods. If product is handled routinely where the potential for leaks exists, all electrical equipment must be rated for use in potentially flammable atmospheres. Consult the National Electrical Code for details.

**EYE/FACE PROTECTION:** Safety goggles or glasses.

**SKIN PROTECTION:** Protective gloves of suitable material.

**RESPIRATORY PROTECTION:** For emergency release use a positive pressure NIOSH approved air-supplying respirator systems (SCBA or airline/escape bottle) using at a minimum Grade D air.

**OTHER/GENERAL PROTECTION:** Safety shoes, emergency eyewash station

## **9. Physical and Chemical Properties**

PARAMETER	VALUE	UNITS
Physical state (gas, liquid, solid)	: Gas	
Vapor pressure	: Not Available	
Vapor density (Air = 1)	: Not Available	
Evaporation point	: Not Available	
Boiling point	: -285.7	°F
	: -161.5	°C
Freezing point	: -296.5	°F
	: -182.5	°C
pH	: Not Applicable	
Specific gravity	: 0.55	
Oil/water partition coefficient	: Not Available	
Solubility (H <sub>2</sub> O)	: Negligible	
Odor threshold	: Not Applicable	
Odor and appearance	: Odorless, colorless gas	

PRODUCT NAME: METHANE

## 10. Stability and Reactivity

**STABILITY:** Stable

**INCOMPATIBLE MATERIALS/CONDITIONS:** Incompatible with oxidizers. Avoid heat, sparks, and flames.

**HAZARDOUS DECOMPOSITION PRODUCTS:** Carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide

**HAZARDOUS POLYMERIZATION:** Will not occur.

## 11. Toxicological Information

**INHALATION:** High concentrations of aliphatic hydrocarbon gases may cause CNS depression. Recent information suggests that C1-C4 aliphatic (alkane) hydrocarbon gases can cause potentially fatal cardiac arrhythmias. Cardiac sensitization to adrenalin in dogs has been noted following inhalation. In dogs, the heart was more sensitive to epinephrine induced ventricular fibrillations following exposure to 15-90% propane for 10 minutes. Ventricular fibrillations have been reported in a 15-year old girl and a 14-year old boy following inhalation of n-butane (concentration not reported).

**SKIN AND EYE:** Contact with gas is not expected to cause irritation.

**OTHER:** Not given.

## 12. Ecological Information

Product does not contain Class I or Class II ozone depleting substances. Not toxic. Will not bioconcentrate.

## 13. Disposal Considerations

Do not attempt to dispose of residual waste or unused quantities. Return in the shipping container PROPERLY LABELED, WITH ANY VALVE OUTLET PLUGS OR CAPS SECURED AND VALVE PROTECTION CAP IN PLACE to BOC Gases or authorized distributor for proper disposal.

## 14. Transport Information

PARAMETER	United States DOT	Canada TDG
PROPER SHIPPING NAME:	Methane, compressed	Methane, compressed
HAZARD CLASS:	2.1	2.1
IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:	UN 1971	UN 1971
SHIPPING LABEL:	FLAMMABLE GAS	FLAMMABLE GAS

PRODUCT NAME: METHANE

## 15. Regulatory Information

### SARA TITLE III NOTIFICATIONS AND INFORMATION

#### SARA TITLE III - HAZARD CLASSES:

Fire Hazard

Sudden Release of Pressure Hazard

Acute Health Hazard

#### SARA TITLE III - SECTION 313 SUPPLIER NOTIFICATION:

This product does not contain toxic chemicals subject to reporting requirements of section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act (EPCRA) of 1986 and of 40 CFR 372.

**U.S. TSCA/Canadian DSL:** All ingredients are listed on the U.S. Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) inventory or exempt from listing and on the Canadian Domestic Substance List (DSL).

**California Proposition 65:** This product does not contain ingredient(s) known to the State of California to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity.

**Canadian Controlled Products Regulations (CPR):** 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.

## 16. Other Information

NFPA HAZARD CODES	HMIS HAZARD CODES	RATINGS SYSTEM
Health: 0	Health: 0	0 = No Hazard
Flammability: 4	Flammability: 4	1 = Slight Hazard
Instability: 0	Physical Hazard: 3	2 = Moderate Hazard 3 = Serious Hazard 4 = Severe Hazard

Note: Ratings were assigned in accordance with Compressed Gas Association (CGA) guidelines as published in CGA Pamphlet P-19-2004, *CGA Recommended Hazard Ratings for Compressed Gases, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*.

ACGIH	American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists
DOT	Department of Transportation
IARC	International Agency for Research on Cancer
NTP	National Toxicology Program
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PEL	Permissible Exposure Limit
SARA	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act
STEL	Short Term Exposure Limit
TDG	Transportation of Dangerous Goods
TLV	Threshold Limit Value
WHMIS	Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System

Compressed gas cylinders shall not be refilled without the express written permission of the owner. Shipment of a compressed gas cylinder which has not been filled by the owner or with his/her (written) consent is a violation of transportation regulations.

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