
1. IDENTIFICATION OF THE MATERIAL AND SUPPLIER

1.1 Product identifier

Product name **SPECSHIELD WIT**
Synonym(s) 181 - SDS NUMBER • ARGON SHIELDING GAS COMPRESSED MIXTURE • BOC SPECSHIELD WIT •
PRODUCT CODE: 265 WIT

1.2 Uses and uses advised against

Use(s) SHIELDING GAS

1.3 Details of the supplier of the product

Supplier name **BOC LIMITED (AUSTRALIA)**
Address 10 Julius Avenue, North Ryde, NSW, 2113, AUSTRALIA
Telephone 131 262, (02) 8874 4400
Fax 132 427 (24 hours)
Website <http://www.boc.com.au>

1.4 Emergency telephone number(s)

Emergency 1800 653 572 (24/7) (Australia only)

2. HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION

2.1 Classification of the substance or mixture

CLASSIFIED AS HAZARDOUS ACCORDING TO AUSTRALIAN WHS REGULATIONS

GHS classification(s) Gases Under Pressure: Compressed gas

2.2 Label elements

Signal word **WARNING**

Pictogram(s)



Hazard statement(s)

H280 Contains gas under pressure; may explode if heated.

Prevention statement(s)

None allocated.

Response statement(s)

None allocated.

Storage statement(s)

P410 + P403 Protect from sunlight. Store in a well-ventilated place.

Disposal statement(s)

None allocated.

2.3 Other hazards

Asphyxiant. Effects are proportional to oxygen displacement.

3. COMPOSITION/ INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS

3.1 Substances / Mixtures

Ingredient	CAS Number	EC Number	Content (v/v)
ARGON	7440-37-1	231-147-0	78%
HELIUM	7440-59-7	231-168-5	20%
CARBON DIOXIDE	124-38-9	204-696-9	2%

4. FIRST AID MEASURES

4.1 Description of first aid measures

Eye	None required.
Inhalation	If inhaled, remove from contaminated area. To protect rescuer, use an Air-line respirator or Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). Apply artificial respiration if not breathing. Give oxygen if available. For advice, contact a Poison Information Centre on 13 11 26 (Australia Wide) or a doctor.
Skin	None required.
Ingestion	Due to product form and application, ingestion is considered unlikely.
First aid facilities	No information provided.

4.2 Most important symptoms and effects, both acute and delayed

In high concentrations may cause asphyxiation. Symptoms may include loss of mobility / consciousness. Victim may not be aware of asphyxiation. Low concentrations of CO2 cause increased respiration and headache.

4.3 Immediate medical attention and special treatment needed

Treat symptomatically.

5. FIRE FIGHTING MEASURES

5.1 Extinguishing media

Use water fog to cool containers from protected area.

5.2 Special hazards arising from the substance or mixture

Non flammable.

5.3 Advice for firefighters

Temperatures in a fire may cause cylinders to rupture. Cool cylinders or containers exposed to fire by applying water from a protected location. Remove cool cylinders from the path of the fire. Evacuate the area if unable to keep cylinders cool. Do not approach cylinders or containers suspected of being hot.

5.4 Hazchem code

2TE	
2	Fine Water Spray.
T	Wear full fire kit and breathing apparatus. Dilute spill and run-off.
E	Evacuation of people in and around the immediate vicinity of the incident should be considered.

6. ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES

6.1 Personal precautions, protective equipment and emergency procedures

If the cylinder is leaking, evacuate area of personnel. Inform manufacturer/supplier of leak. Use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as detailed in Section 8 of the SDS.

6.2 Environmental precautions

Prevent from entering sewers, basements and workpits, or any place where its accumulation can be dangerous.

6.3 Methods of cleaning up

Carefully move material to a well ventilated remote area, then allow to discharge if safe to do so. Do not attempt to repair leaking valve or cylinder safety devices.

6.4 Reference to other sections

See Sections 8 and 13 for exposure controls and disposal.

7. HANDLING AND STORAGE

7.1 Precautions for safe handling

Use of safe work practices are recommended to avoid inhalation. Do not drag, drop, slide or roll cylinders. The uncontrolled release of a gas under pressure may cause physical harm. Use a suitable hand truck for cylinder movement.

7.2 Conditions for safe storage, including any incompatibilities

Do not store near incompatible materials. Cylinders should be stored below 45°C in a secure area, upright and restrained to prevent cylinders from falling. Cylinders should also be stored in a dry, well ventilated area constructed of non-combustible material with firm level floor (preferably concrete), away from areas of heavy traffic and emergency exits.

7.3 Specific end use(s)

No information provided.

8. EXPOSURE CONTROLS / PERSONAL PROTECTION

8.1 Control parameters

Exposure standards

Ingredient	Reference	TWA		STEL	
		ppm	mg/m ³	ppm	mg/m ³
Argon	SWA (AUS)	Asphyxiant			
Carbon dioxide	SWA (AUS)	5000	9000	30000	54000
Carbon dioxide in coal mines	SWA (AUS)	12500	22500	30000	54000
Helium	SWA (AUS)	Asphyxiant			

Biological limits

No biological limit values have been entered for this product.

8.2 Exposure controls

Engineering controls Avoid inhalation. Use in well ventilated areas. Where an inhalation risk exists, mechanical extraction ventilation is recommended.

PPE

- Eye / Face** Wear safety glasses.
- Hands** Wear leather gloves.
- Body** Wear safety boots.
- Respiratory** Where an inhalation risk exists, wear Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) or an Air-line respirator.



9. PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

9.1 Information on basic physical and chemical properties

Appearance	COLOURLESS GAS
Odour	ODOURLESS
Flammability	NON FLAMMABLE
Flash point	NOT RELEVANT
Boiling point	NOT AVAILABLE
Melting point	NOT AVAILABLE
Evaporation rate	NOT APPLICABLE
pH	NOT APPLICABLE
Vapour density	1.4 (Air = 1)
Specific gravity	NOT APPLICABLE
Solubility (water)	0.759 L/L (Carbon dioxide)
Vapour pressure	NOT AVAILABLE
Upper explosion limit	NOT RELEVANT

9.1 Information on basic physical and chemical properties

Lower explosion limit	NOT RELEVANT
Partition coefficient	NOT AVAILABLE
Autoignition temperature	NOT AVAILABLE
Decomposition temperature	NOT AVAILABLE
Viscosity	NOT AVAILABLE
Explosive properties	NOT AVAILABLE
Oxidising properties	NOT AVAILABLE
Odour threshold	NOT AVAILABLE

9.2 Other information

Cylinder pressure (when full)	Refer to Industrial Gases Reference Manual
% Volatiles	100 %

10. STABILITY AND REACTIVITY

10.1 Reactivity

Carefully review all information provided in sections 10.2 to 10.6.

10.2 Chemical stability

Stable under recommended conditions of storage.

10.3 Possibility of hazardous reactions

Polymerization will not occur.

10.4 Conditions to avoid

Avoid contact with incompatible substances.

10.5 Incompatible materials

Moist carbon dioxide is corrosive, hence acid resistant materials are required (e.g. stainless steel). Certain properties of some plastics and rubbers may be affected by carbon dioxide (i.e. embrittlement, leaching of plasticisers, etc). Hazardous by-products may be produced when this gas/gas mixture is used in welding, cutting and associated processes.

10.6 Hazardous decomposition products

This material will not decompose to form hazardous products other than that already present.

11. TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION

11.1 Information on toxicological effects

Acute toxicity	Based on available data, the classification criteria are not met. Low concentrations of carbon dioxide cause increased respiration and headache.
Skin	Not classified as a skin irritant.
Eye	Not classified as an eye irritant.
Sensitization	Not classified as causing skin or respiratory sensitisation.
Mutagenicity	Not classified as a mutagen.
Carcinogenicity	Not classified as a carcinogen.
Reproductive	Not classified as a reproductive toxin.
STOT – single exposure	Asphyxiant. Effects are proportional to oxygen displacement. Over exposure may result in dizziness, drowsiness, weakness, fatigue, breathing difficulties and unconsciousness.
STOT – repeated exposure	Not classified as causing organ effects from repeated exposure.
Aspiration	Not classified as causing aspiration.

12. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

12.1 Toxicity

No information provided.

12.2 Persistence and degradability

No information provided.

12.3 Bioaccumulative potential

No information provided.

12.4 Mobility in soil

No information provided.

12.5 Other adverse effects

When discharged to the atmosphere, carbon dioxide may contribute to the greenhouse effect. Fume from fabrication processes which use this gas/gas mixture may be harmful to the environment.

13. DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS

13.1 Waste treatment methods

Waste disposal Cylinders should be returned to the manufacturer or supplier for disposal of contents.

Legislation Dispose of in accordance with relevant local legislation.

14. TRANSPORT INFORMATION

CLASSIFIED AS A DANGEROUS GOOD BY THE CRITERIA OF THE ADG CODE



	LAND TRANSPORT (ADG)	SEA TRANSPORT (IMDG / IMO)	AIR TRANSPORT (IATA / ICAO)
14.1 UN Number	1956	1956	1956
14.2 Proper Shipping Name	COMPRESSED GAS, N.O.S. (Contains argon)	COMPRESSED GAS, N.O.S. (Contains argon)	COMPRESSED GAS, N.O.S. (Contains argon)
14.3 Transport hazard class	2.2	2.2	2.2
14.4 Packing Group	None Allocated	None Allocated	None Allocated

14.5 Environmental hazards No information provided

14.6 Special precautions for user

Hazchem code 2TE

GTEPG 2C1

EMS F-C, S-V

Other information Ensure cylinder is separated from driver and that outlet of relief device is not obstructed.

15. REGULATORY INFORMATION

15.1 Safety, health and environmental regulations/legislation specific for the substance or mixture

Poison schedule A poison schedule number has not been allocated to this product using the criteria in the Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons (SUSMP).

Classifications Safework Australia criteria is based on the Globally Harmonised System (GHS) of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.

The classifications and phrases listed below are based on the Approved Criteria for Classifying Hazardous Substances [NOHSC: 1008(2004)].

Hazard codes None allocated.

Risk phrases None allocated.

Safety phrases None allocated.

Inventory listing(s) **AUSTRALIA: AICS (Australian Inventory of Chemical Substances)**
All components are listed on AICS, or are exempt.

16. OTHER INFORMATION

Additional information

The storage of significant quantities of gas cylinders must comply with AS4332 The storage and handling of gases in cylinders. When using this gas/gas mixture for welding, cutting and associated processes, additional hazards may be generated by the process such as radiation, noise and fume. Risk assessments should be made for each activity to identify and quantify the individual hazards involved. Please refer to the BOC document "Welding Hazards and Risk Management" available from www.boc.com and refer to the relevant Safety Data Sheets for the welding consumables being used or, if available, the materials being welded.

APPLICATION METHOD: Gas regulator of suitable pressure and flow rating fitted to cylinder or manifold with low pressure gas distribution to equipment.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT GUIDELINES:

The recommendation for protective equipment contained within this report is provided as a guide only. Factors such as method of application, working environment, quantity used, product concentration and the availability of engineering controls should be considered before final selection of personal protective equipment is made.

HEALTH EFFECTS FROM EXPOSURE:

It should be noted that the effects from exposure to this product will depend on several factors including: frequency and duration of use; quantity used; effectiveness of control measures; protective equipment used and method of application. Given that it is impractical to prepare a ChemAlert report which would encompass all possible scenarios, it is anticipated that users will assess the risks and apply control methods where appropriate.

Abbreviations

ACGIH	American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists
CAS #	Chemical Abstract Service number - used to uniquely identify chemical compounds
CNS	Central Nervous System
EC No.	EC No - European Community Number
EMS	Emergency Schedules (Emergency Procedures for Ships Carrying Dangerous Goods)
GHS	Globally Harmonized System
GTEPG	Group Text Emergency Procedure Guide
IARC	International Agency for Research on Cancer
LC50	Lethal Concentration, 50% / Median Lethal Concentration
LD50	Lethal Dose, 50% / Median Lethal Dose
mg/m ³	Milligrams per Cubic Metre
OEL	Occupational Exposure Limit
pH	relates to hydrogen ion concentration using a scale of 0 (high acidic) to 14 (highly alkaline).
ppm	Parts Per Million
STEL	Short-Term Exposure Limit
STOT-RE	Specific target organ toxicity (repeated exposure)
STOT-SE	Specific target organ toxicity (single exposure)
SUSMP	Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons
SWA	Safe Work Australia
TLV	Threshold Limit Value
TWA	Time Weighted Average

Report status

This document has been compiled by RMT on behalf of the manufacturer, importer or supplier of the product and serves as their Safety Data Sheet ('SDS').

It is based on information concerning the product which has been provided to RMT by the manufacturer, importer or supplier or obtained from third party sources and is believed to represent the current state of knowledge as to the appropriate safety and handling precautions for the product at the time of issue. Further clarification regarding any aspect of the product should be obtained directly from the manufacturer, importer or supplier.

While RMT has taken all due care to include accurate and up-to-date information in this SDS, it does not provide any warranty as to accuracy or completeness. As far as lawfully possible, RMT accepts no liability for any loss, injury or damage (including consequential loss) which may be suffered or incurred by any person as a consequence of their reliance on the information contained in this SDS.

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