



**MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET**

PRODUCT NAME: ACETYLENE

### 1. Chemical 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 Falbourn 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: 20101

PRODUCT NAME: ACETYLENE  
CHEMICAL NAME: Acetylene  
COMMON NAMES/SYNONYMS: Ethyne, Acetylen, Ethine  
TDG (Canada) CLASSIFICATION: 2.1  
WHMIS CLASSIFICATION: A, B1, D2B

PREPARED BY: Loss Control (908)464-8100/(905)501-1700  
PREPARATION DATE: 6/1/95  
REVIEW DATES: 6/7/96

### 2. Composition, Information on Ingredients

INGREDIENT	% VOLUME	PEL-OSHA <sup>1</sup>	TLV-ACGIH <sup>2</sup>	LD <sub>50</sub> or LC <sub>50</sub> Route/Species
Acetylene FORMULA: C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>2</sub> CAS: 74-86-2 RTECS #: AO9600000	95.0 to 99.6	Not Available	Simple Asphyxiant	Not Available
Acetone FORMULA: C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O CAS: 67-64-1 RTECS #: AL3150000	Not Available	1000 ppm TWA	750 ppm TWA 1000 ppm STEL	LD <sub>50</sub> 1297 mg/kg (mouse)

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

<sup>2</sup> As stated in the ACGIH 1994-95 Threshold Limit Values for Chemical Substances and Physical Agents

### 3. Hazards Identification

#### EMERGENCY OVERVIEW

Simple Asphyxiant. This product does not contain oxygen and may cause asphyxia if released in a confined area. Maintain oxygen levels above 19.5%. May cause anesthetic effects. Highly flammable under pressure. Spontaneously combustible in air at pressures above 15 psig. Acetylene liquid is shock sensitive.

<b>PRODUCT NAME: ACETYLENE</b>
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**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 Yes	Sensitization No
Teratogen No	Reproductive Hazard No	Mutagen No
Synergistic Effects None Reported		

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

**EYE EFFECTS:**

None known since product is a gas at room temperature. Contact of liquid acetylene with the eyes may cause temporary irritation.

**SKIN EFFECTS:**

Skin effects are not likely. Contact with liquid acetylene may cause irritation and dermatitis upon repeated exposures.

**INGESTION EFFECTS:**

Ingestion is unlikely, since acetylene is a gas at room temperature.

**INHALATION EFFECTS:**

Acetylene is an asphyxiant and may cause anesthetic effects at high concentrations. High concentrations may exclude an adequate supply of oxygen to the lungs. Effects of oxygen deficiency resulting from simple asphyxiants may include: rapid breathing, diminished mental alertness, impaired muscular coordination, faulty judgement, depression of all sensations, emotional instability, and fatigue. As asphyxiation progresses, nausea, vomiting, prostration, and loss of consciousness may result, eventually leading to convulsions, coma, and death.

Under normal operating conditions, acetone is not released from the cylinder. However, if the cylinder is overcharged with acetone or acetylene, acetone may occasionally "spit" out. Acetone is primarily a central nervous system toxin causing headache, nausea, dizziness, vomiting and fatigue. Moderate concentrations may cause respiratory irritation.

Oxygen deficiency during pregnancy has produced developmental abnormalities in humans and experimental animals.

**NFPA HAZARD CODES**

Health: 0  
Flammability: 4  
Reactivity: 0

**HMIS HAZARD CODES**

Health: 0  
Flammability: 4  
Reactivity: 0

**RATINGS SYSTEM**

0 = No Hazard  
1 = Slight Hazard  
2 = Moderate Hazard  
3 = Serious Hazard  
4 = Severe Hazard

#### 4. First Aid Measures

**EYES:**

None normally required. Consult a physician if direct contact with pressurized material occurs. Immediately flush with low pressure, cool water for at least 15 minutes, opening eyelids to ensure flushing. Get medical attention.

**SKIN:**

Wash affected areas with soap and warm water. If irritation develops, seek medical attention.

**INGESTION:**

None normally required.

**INHALATION:**

PROMPT MEDICAL ATTENTION IS MANDATORY IN ALL CASES OF OVEREXPOSURE. 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.

#### 5. Fire Fighting Measures

Conditions of Flammability: Flammable		
Flash point: Not Available	Method: Not Applicable	Autoignition: Temperature: 565°F (296°C)
LEL(%): 2.2	UEL(%): 80 to 85*	
Hazardous combustion products: Carbon Monoxide, Carbon Dioxide		
Sensitivity to mechanical shock: Not Available		
Sensitivity to static discharge: Not Available		

**FIRE AND EXPLOSION HAZARDS:**

\*Pure acetylene can ignite by decomposition above 15 psig; therefore, the UEL is 100% if the ignition source is of sufficient intensity.

GASEOUS ACETYLENE IS SPONTANEOUSLY COMBUSTIBLE IN AIR AT PRESSURE ABOVE 15 PSI (207 kPa.). It requires a very low ignition energy so that fires which have been extinguished without stopping the flow of gas can easily reignite with possible explosive force. Acetylene has a density very similar to that of air so when leaking it does not readily dissipate. Gas may travel to a source of ignition and flash back.

Fires involving acetylene occur occasionally at fusible metal pressure relief plugs at the tops and bottoms of cylinders, commonly due to hot metal or slag being dropped on the fusible plugs. When the fusible plug releases a large volume of acetylene will rush out, creating a "roaring" sound. The flame may extend a foot or two away from the cylinder until the pressure is reduced. In some cases, the other end of the cylinder may develop a coating of frost.

**EXTINGUISHING MEDIA:**

Carbon dioxide, dry chemical.

**FIRE FIGHTING INSTRUCTIONS:**

**WARNING: ALWAYS EXTINGUISH A FIRE BEFORE CLOSING THE CYLINDER VALVE.** If the flame is small from the fusible plug or valve stem, try to put it out. Wear SCBA and fully protective clothing for fire fighting. If the fire is allowed to keep burning it is likely that the fusible plug will melt and result in a large release of acetylene. A glove or heavy cloth or any wet material slapped on the flame will frequently extinguish it.

If the flame is large, burning from a fusible plug, **DO NOT** try to put it out unless the cylinder is outdoors or in a very well ventilated area free from sources of ignition. Usually it is very difficult to extinguish large fires because the escaping acetylene may be reignited by adjacent ignition sources, thereby possibly creating a confined space explosion. Keep containers cool with water spray.

## 6. Accidental Release Measures

Evacuate all personnel from affected areas. Isolate the area for over 1/2 mile in all directions in the event of leakage of a tank, rail car or tank truck. Use appropriate protective equipment.

If possible to do safely, shut off ignition sources and stop the leak by closing the valve. For small leaks, cylinders may be moved to an area outdoors and away from any source of ignition. Circumstances which, it is advisable to attempt removal of the cylinder are when cylinders are in close proximity to other compressed gases, when highly flammable materials or hazardous materials are in the vicinity of the acetylene cylinder(s), or where protection of the building is unusually difficult and spreading of a fire may produce a major loss of life or property. When the cylinder is removed, it may be hosed down with water to keep it cool. Open valve slowly to let the acetylene escape. Tag the cylinder with "WARNING - Leaking Flammable Gas". Close valve when empty.

Evacuate all personnel from affected area. Use appropriate protective equipment. 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:**

Class 1, Group A.

Acetylene is shipped in a cylinder packed with a porous mass material, and a liquid solvent, commonly acetone. Acetylene is dissolved in the acetone solution and dispersed throughout the porous medium. When the valve of a charged acetylene cylinder is opened, the acetylene comes out of solution and passes out in the gaseous form.

**IT IS CRUCIAL THAT FUSE PLUGS IN THE TOPS AND BOTTOMS OF ALL ACETYLENE CYLINDERS BE THOROUGHLY INSPECTED WHENEVER HANDLED. REMOVE AND QUARANTINE IN A SAFE LOCATION ANY DEFECTIVE CYLINDER.**

Post "NO SMOKING OR OPEN FLAMES" signs in the storage area or use area. There should be no sources of ignition in the storage or use area.

**PRODUCT NAME: ACETYLENE**

Use only in well-ventilated areas. Stationary customer site vessels should be operated in accordance with the manufacturer's and BOC instructions. Do not attempt to repair, adjust or in any other way modify the operation of these vessels. If there is a malfunction or other type of operations problem with the vessel, contact the closest BOC location immediately for assistance.

Protect cylinders from physical damage. Store in cool, dry, well-ventilated area 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.

Valve protection caps must remain in place unless container is secured with valve outlet piping to use point. Close valve after each use and when the container is empty. Do not drag, slide or roll cylinders on their sides. Use a suitable hand truck for container movement. Use a pressure reducing regulator when connecting container to piping or systems. Do not use gas directly from container. Do not heat container by any means to increase the discharge rate of product from the container.

Never attempt to repair or alter cylinders. Never tamper with pressure relief devices or fusible plugs. Under no circumstances allow a torch flame to contact the fusible plug. While welding, avoid contact of the cylinder welding equipment or electrical circuits.

If rough handling or other occurrences should cause any fusible plug to leak, move the cylinder to an open space well away from an possible source of a sign on the cylinder warning of "Leaking Flammable Gas".

Unless oxygen and acetylene are separated, there should be a non-combustible partition of at least 5 ft high with a fire resistance rating of one-half hour between cylinders. In the U.S. cylinders stored inside a building near user locations must be limited to a total capacity of 2500 ft<sup>3</sup> of gas, exclusive of in-use or attached for use cylinders.

Do not store cylinders on their side. This makes the acetylene less stable and less safe, and increases the likelihood of solvent loss and resultant decomposition.

For additional information, consult the Compressed Gas Association (CGA) pamphlets P-1, G-1, SB-4-1990; NFPA #51-1984, and OSHA 1910 Subpart H & Q.

## 8. Exposure Controls, Personal Protection

### 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
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Acetone FORMULA: C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O CAS: 67-64-1 RTECS #: AL3150000	Not Available	1000 ppm TWA	750 ppm TWA 1000 ppm STEL	LD <sub>50</sub> 1297 mg/kg (mouse)

<sup>1</sup> Refer to individual state of 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 1994-1995 Threshold Limit Values for Chemical Substances and Physical Agents.

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**ENGINEERING CONTROLS:**

Provide general room ventilation and local exhaust to prevent accumulation above the exposure limit and to maintain oxygen levels above 19.5%. Mechanical ventilation should be designed in accordance with electrical codes.

**EYE/FACE PROTECTION:**

Safety goggles or glasses as appropriate for the job.

**SKIN PROTECTION:**

PVC or rubber in laboratory; as required for cutting and welding.

**RESPIRATORY PROTECTION:**

Positive pressure air line with full-face mask and escape bottle or self-contained breathing apparatus should be available for emergency use.

**OTHER/GENERAL PROTECTION:**

Safety shoes.

## 9. Physical and Chemical Properties

PARAMETER	VALUE	UNITS
Physical state (gas, liquid, solid)	: Gas	
Vapor pressure	: 635	psia
Vapor density (Air = 1)	: Not Available	
Evaporation point	: Not Available	
Boiling point	: -118.8	°F
	: -83.8	°C
Freezing point	: -113	°F
	: -80.6	°C
pH	: Not Available	
Specific gravity	: 0.906	
Oil/water partition coefficient	: Not Available	
Solubility (H2O)	: Soluble	
Odor threshold	: Not Available	
Odor and appearance	: Pure acetylene has an ethereal odor. Commercial (carbide) acetylene has a distinctive garlic-like odor; A colorless gas.	

## 10. Stability and Reactivity

**STABILITY:**

Unstable - shock sensitive in the liquid state. Do not allow free gas (outside of cylinder) to exceed 15 psig. Do not expose cylinders to sudden shock or heat. Acetylene will decompose violently with cylinder failure.

**INCOMPATIBLE MATERIALS:**

Oxygen and other oxidizers including all halogens and halogen compounds. Forms explosive acetylide compounds with copper, mercury, silver, brasses containing >66% copper and brazing materials containing silver or copper.

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**HAZARDOUS DECOMPOSITION PRODUCTS:**

Acetylene decomposes at high pressure to its constituent elements of carbon and hydrogen. Carbon monoxide may be produced from burning.

Under certain conditions, acetylene forms readily explosive acetylides compounds when in contact with copper, silver, and mercury. Therefore, use of acetylene and these metals, or their salts, compounds, and high concentration alloys should be avoided.

The presence of moisture, certain acids or alkaline materials tends to enhance the formation of copper acetylides.

**HAZARDOUS POLYMERIZATION:**

Temperatures as low as 250°F (121°C) at high pressure, or at low pressure in the presence of a catalyst are sufficient to initiate a polymerization reaction. The hazard here is that the polymerization normally liberates heat and may, therefore, lead to ignition and decomposition of acetylene if conditions permit.

**11. Toxicological Information**

Low concentrations (10-20% in air) cause symptoms similar to that of being intoxicated. As a narcotic gas or intoxicant, it causes hypercapnia (an excessive amount of carbon dioxide in the blood). Repeated exposures to tolerable levels has not shown deleterious effects.

TC<sub>LO</sub> , human - Inhalation of 20 ppb inhaled has been shown to cause headache and dyspnea.

Oxygen deficiency during pregnancy has produced developmental abnormalities in humans and experimental animals.

**12. Ecological Information**

No data given.

**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:	Acetylene, dissolved	Acetylene, dissolved
HAZARD CLASS:	2.1	2.1
IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:	UN 1001	UN 1001
SHIPPING LABEL:	FLAMMABLE GAS	FLAMMABLE GAS

**15. Regulatory Information**

**U.S. FEDERAL REGULATORY INFORMATION**

MSDS: G-2

Revised: 6/7/96

**PRODUCT NAME: ACETYLENE**

Acetone is regulated as a Hazardous Substance under CERCLA.

Acetylene is listed under the Clean Air Act (CAA) Section 112(r) with a threshold quantity (TQ) of 10,000 pounds.

**SARA TITLE III NOTIFICATIONS AND INFORMATION**

Releases of acetone in quantities equal to or greater than the reportable quantity (RQ) of 5,000 pounds are subject to reporting to the National Response Center under CERCLA, Section 304 SARA Title III.

**SARA TITLE III - HAZARD CLASSES:**

Acute Health Hazard  
Fire Hazard  
Sudden Release of Pressure Hazard  
Reactivity Hazard

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

This product contains the following 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:

CAS NUMBER	INGREDIENT NAME	PERCENT OF VOLUME
67-64-1	Acetone	Unknown

This information must be included on all MSDSs that are copied and distributed for this material.

**REGULATED INGREDIENTS**

INGREDIENT: Acetone

CAS NUMBER: 67-64-1

REGULATIONS: ILL MAS NJS NJW PAW STC WHM

ILL - Illinois Toxic Substance  
MAS - Massachusetts Hazardous Substance  
NJS - New Jersey Special Health Hazardous Substance  
NJW - New Jersey Workplace Hazardous Substance  
PAW - Pennsylvania Workplace Hazardous Substance  
STC - SARA Section 313 Toxic Chemical  
WHS - WHMIS (Canada)

INGREDIENT: Acetylene

CAS NUMBER: 74-86-2

PERCENT BY VOLUME: 95.0 to 99.6

REGULATIONS: ILL MAS NJS NJW PAW WHM

ILL - Illinois Toxic Substance  
MAS - Massachusetts Hazardous Substance  
NJS - New Jersey Special Health Hazardous Substance  
NJW - New Jersey Workplace Hazardous Substance  
PAW - Pennsylvania Workplace Hazardous Substance  
STC - SARA Section 313 Toxic Chemical  
WHS - WHMIS (Canada)

**CANADIAN REGULATORY INFORMATION:**

In Canada, regulations limit the capacity of acetylene cylinders stored inside a building at user locations to a total capacity of 2160 ft<sup>3</sup> of gas in unsprinklered combustible structures, or 6130 ft<sup>3</sup> in sprinklered buildings of combustible or non-combustible structures.

**MSDS:** G-2

**Revised:** 6/7/96



## 16. Other Information

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.

### **DISCLAIMER OF EXPRESSED AND IMPLIED WARRANTIES:**

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