

Praxair Material Safety Data Sheet

1. Chemical Product and Company Identification

Product Name: Ethylene (MSDS No. P-4598-E)	Trade Names: Ethylene
Chemical Name: Ethylene	Synonyms: Ethene, elayl, acetene, bicarburetted hydrogen, olefiant gas, refrigerant gas R1150
Chemical Family: Alkene	Product Grades: 1.85, 2.5, Polymer – 3.0, Research – 5.0
Telephone:	Company Name: Praxair, Inc.
Emergencies: 1-800-645-4633*	39 Old Ridgebury Road
CHEMTREC: 1-800-424-9300*	Danbury, CT 06810-5113
Routine: 1-800-PRAXAIR	

*Call emergency numbers 24 hours a day only for spills, leaks, fire, exposure, or accidents involving this product. For routine information, contact your supplier, Praxair sales representative, or call 1-800-PRAXAIR (1-800-772-9247).

2. Hazards Identification

EMERGENCY OVERVIEW

DANGER! Flammable, high-pressure gas.

Can form explosive mixtures with air.

May cause frostbite.

May cause dizziness and drowsiness.

Self-contained breathing apparatus may be required by rescue workers.

Under ambient conditions, this is a gas with a faint, sweet, musty odor.

OSHA REGULATORY STATUS: This material is considered hazardous by the OSHA Hazard Communications Standard (29 CFR 1910.1200).

POTENTIAL HEALTH EFFECTS:

Effects of a Single (Acute) Overexposure

Inhalation. Asphyxiant. Effects are due to lack of oxygen. Moderate concentrations may cause headache, drowsiness, dizziness, excitation, excess salivation, vomiting, and unconsciousness. Lack of oxygen can kill.

Skin Contact. May cause frostbite.

Swallowing. An unlikely route of exposure. This product is a gas at normal temperature and pressure.

Eye Contact. May cause frostbite.

Effects of Repeated (Chronic) Overexposure. No harm expected.

Other Effects of Overexposure. Ethylene is an asphyxiant. Lack of oxygen can kill.

Medical Conditions Aggravated by Overexposure. The toxicology and the physical and chemical properties of ethylene suggest that overexposure is unlikely to aggravate existing medical conditions.

CARCINOGENICITY: Ethylene is not listed by NTP or OSHA. The IARC lists ethylene as Group 3, unclassifiable as to carcinogenicity to humans.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: For further information, see section 12, Ecological Information.

3. Composition/Information on Ingredients

See section 16 for important information about mixtures.

COMPONENT	CAS NUMBER	CONCENTRATION
Ethylene	74-85-1	>99%*

*The symbol > means "greater than."

4. First Aid Measures

INHALATION: Immediately remove to fresh air. If not breathing, give artificial respiration. If breathing is difficult, qualified personnel may give oxygen. Call a physician.

SKIN CONTACT: Wash skin with soap and water. In case of frostbite, get immediate medical attention.

SWALLOWING: An unlikely route of exposure. This product is a gas at normal temperature and pressure.

EYE CONTACT: Immediately flush eyes thoroughly with water for at least 15 minutes. Hold the eyelids open and away from the eyeballs to ensure that all surfaces are flushed thoroughly. Seek the advice of a physician, preferably an ophthalmologist, immediately.

NOTES TO PHYSICIAN: *There is no specific antidote. Treatment of overexposure should be directed at the control of symptoms and the clinical condition of the patient.*

5. Fire Fighting Measures

FLAMMABLE PROPERTIES: Spontaneously explosive when combined with chlorine in sunlight. Forms explosive mixtures with air and oxidizing agents.

SUITABLE EXTINGUISHING MEDIA: CO₂, dry chemicals, water spray, or fog.

PRODUCTS OF COMBUSTION: Thermal decomposition or burning produces CO/CO₂.

PROTECTION OF FIREFIGHTERS: DANGER! Flammable, high-pressure gas. Evacuate all personnel from danger area. Self-contained breathing apparatus may be required by rescue workers. Immediately spray cylinders with water from maximum distance until cool, taking care not to extinguish flames. Remove sources of ignition if without risk. Remove all cylinders from fire area if without risk; continue cooling water spray while moving cylinders. Do not extinguish any flames emitted from cylinders; stop flow of gas if without risk, or allow flames to burn out. If flames are accidentally extinguished, explosive reignition may occur. Take appropriate measures, e.g., total evacuation. Reapproach with extreme caution. On-site fire brigades must comply with OSHA 29 CFR 1910.156.

Specific Physical and Chemical Hazards. Heat of fire can build pressure in cylinder and cause it to rupture. No part of a cylinder should be subjected to a temperature higher than 125°F (52°C). Cylinders containing ethylene are equipped with pressure relief devices. (Exceptions may exist where authorized by DOT.) If venting or leaking product catches fire, do not extinguish flames. Flammable gas may spread from leak, creating an explosive reignition hazard. Vapors can be ignited by pilot lights, other flames, smoking, sparks, heaters, electrical equipment, static discharge, or other ignition sources at locations distant from product handling point. Explosive atmospheres may linger. Before entering area, especially confined areas, check atmosphere with an appropriate device.

Protective Equipment and Precautions for Firefighters. Firefighters should wear self-contained breathing apparatus and full fire-fighting turnout gear.

6. Accidental Release Measures

STEPS TO BE TAKEN IF MATERIAL IS RELEASED OR SPILLED:

DANGER! Flammable, high-pressure gas.

Personal Precautions. Immediately evacuate all personnel from danger area. Use self-contained breathing apparatus where needed. Remove all sources of ignition if without risk. Reduce vapors with fog or fine water spray. Shut off flow if without risk. Ventilate area or move cylinder to a well-ventilated area. Flammable vapors may spread from leak. Before entering area, especially confined areas, check atmosphere with an appropriate device.

Environmental Precautions. Prevent waste from contaminating the surrounding environment. Keep personnel away. Discard any product, residue, disposable container, or liner in an environmentally acceptable manner, in full compliance with federal, state, and local regulations. If necessary, call your local supplier for assistance.

7. Handling and Storage

PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN IN HANDLING: *Protect cylinders from damage.* Use a suitable hand truck to move cylinders; do not drag, roll, slide, or drop. ***Use only spark-proof tools and explosion-proof equipment.*** Leak check system with soapy water; never use a flame. ***Never attempt to lift a cylinder by its cap;*** the cap is intended solely to protect the valve. Never insert an object (e.g., wrench, screwdriver, pry bar) into cap openings; doing so may damage the valve and cause a leak. Use an adjustable strap wrench to remove over-tight or rusted caps. ***Open valve slowly.*** If valve is hard to open, discontinue use and contact your supplier. For other precautions in using ethylene, see section 16.

PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN IN STORAGE: Store and use with adequate ventilation. Separate cylinders containing ethylene from oxygen, chlorine, and other oxidizers by at least 20 ft (6.1 m), or use a barricade of noncombustible material. This barricade should be at least 5 ft (1.53 m) high and have a fire resistance rating of at least ½ hour. ***Firmly secure cylinders upright*** to keep them from falling or being knocked over. Screw valve protection cap firmly in place by hand. ***Post “No Smoking or Open Flames” signs in storage and use areas.*** There must be no sources of ignition. All electrical equipment in storage areas must be explosion-proof. Storage areas must meet national electric codes for Class 1 hazardous areas. Store only where temperature will not exceed 125°F (52°C). Store full and empty cylinders separately. Use a first-in, first-out inventory system to prevent storing full cylinders for long periods.

RECOMMENDED PUBLICATIONS: For further information on storage, handling, and use of this product, see NFPA 55, *Standard for the Storage, Use, and Handling of Compressed and Liquefied Gases in Portable Cylinders*, published by the National Fire Protection Association. See also Praxair publication P-14-153, *Guidelines for Handling Gas Cylinders and Containers*. Obtain from your local supplier.

8. Exposure Controls/Personal Protection

COMPONENT	OSHA PEL	ACGIH TLV-TWA (2006)
Ethylene	N.E.*	200 ppm

*N.E.—Not Established.

TLV-TWAs should be used as a guide in the control of health hazards and not as fine lines between safe and dangerous concentrations.

IDLH = Not available.

ENGINEERING CONTROLS:

Local Exhaust. An explosion-proof local exhaust system with sufficient air flow velocity is recommended.

Mechanical (General). Under certain conditions, general exhaust ventilation may be acceptable to keep ethylene below the exposure limit.

Special. Use only in a closed system.

Other. None

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT:

Skin Protection. Wear work gloves for cylinder handling.

Eye/Face Protection. Select in accordance with OSHA 29 CFR 1910.133.

Respiratory Protection. None required under normal use. An air-supplied respirator must be used in confined spaces. Respiratory protection must conform to OSHA 29 CFR 1910.134. Select per OSHA 29 CFR 1910.134 and ANSI Z88.2.

9. Physical and Chemical Properties

APPEARANCE:	Colorless gas	
ODOR:	Faint, sweet, musty odor.	
ODOR THRESHOLD:	Not available.	
PHYSICAL STATE:	Gas at normal temperature and pressure	
pH:	Not applicable.	
MELTING POINT at 1 atm:	-272.45°F (-169.14°C)	
BOILING POINT at 1 atm:	-154.62°F (-103.68°C)	
FLASH POINT (test method):	-213°F (-136.1°C) TCC	
EVAPORATION RATE (Butyl Acetate = 1):	Not applicable.	
FLAMMABILITY:	Flammable	
FLAMMABLE LIMITS IN AIR , % by volume:	LOWER: 2.7%	UPPER: 36%
VAPOR PRESSURE at 68°F (20°C):	Not available.	
VAPOR DENSITY at 32°F (0°C) and 1 atm:	0.0787 lb/ft ³ (1.261 kg/m ³)	
SPECIFIC GRAVITY (H ₂ O = 1) at 19.4°F (-7°C):	Not applicable.	

SPECIFIC GRAVITY (Air = 1) at 32°F (0°C) and 1 atm:	0.978
SOLUBILITY IN WATER , vol/vol at 32°F (0°C) and 1 atm:	0.26
PARTITION COEFFICIENT, logKOW: n-octanol/water:	1.13
AUTOIGNITION TEMPERATURE:	842°F (450°C)
DECOMPOSITION TEMPERATURE:	Not available.
PERCENT VOLATILES BY VOLUME:	100
MOLECULAR WEIGHT:	28.05
MOLECULAR FORMULA:	C ₂ H ₄

10. Stability and Reactivity

CHEMICAL STABILITY: Unstable Stable

This material is stable shipped under and stored under an inert atmosphere.

CONDITIONS TO AVOID: Elevated temperature and pressure.

INCOMPATIBLE MATERIALS: Heat (reacts explosively with chlorine in sunlight or UV light), oxidizing agents, halogens, acids, aluminum chloride, halocarbons.

HAZARDOUS DECOMPOSITION PRODUCTS: Thermal decomposition or burning may produce CO/CO₂.

POSSIBILITY OF HAZARDOUS REACTIONS: May Occur Will Not Occur

Hazardous polymerization may occur at elevated temperature and pressure.

11. Toxicological Information

ACUTE DOSE EFFECTS: Ethylene is a simple asphyxiant.

STUDY RESULTS: None known.

12. Ecological Information

ECOTOXICITY: No known effects.

OTHER ADVERSE EFFECTS: Ethylene does not contain any Class I or Class II ozone-depleting chemicals.

13. Disposal Considerations

WASTE DISPOSAL METHOD: Do not attempt to dispose of residual or unused quantities. Return cylinder to supplier.

14. Transport Information

DOT/IMO SHIPPING NAME: Ethylene

HAZARD CLASS:	PACKING GROUP/Zone:	IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:	PRODUCT RQ:
2.1	NA	UN1962	None

SHIPPING LABEL(s): FLAMMABLE GAS

PLACARD (when required): FLAMMABLE GAS

SPECIAL SHIPPING INFORMATION: Cylinders should be transported in a secure position, in a well-ventilated vehicle. Cylinders transported in an enclosed, nonventilated compartment of a vehicle can present serious safety hazards.

Shipment of compressed gas cylinders that have been filled without the owner's consent is a violation of federal law [49 CFR 173.301(b)].

MARINE POLLUTANTS: Ethylene is not listed as a marine pollutant by DOT.

15. Regulatory Information

The following selected regulatory requirements may apply to this product. Not all such requirements are identified. Users of this product are solely responsible for compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations.

U.S. FEDERAL REGULATIONS:

EPA (ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY)

CERCLA: COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE, COMPENSATION, AND LIABILITY ACT OF 1980 (40 CFR Parts 117 and 302):

Reportable Quantity (RQ): e.g., None

SARA: SUPERFUND AMENDMENT AND REAUTHORIZATION ACT:

SECTIONS 302/304: Require emergency planning based on Threshold Planning Quantity (TPQ) and release reporting based on Reportable Quantities (RQ) of Extremely Hazardous Substances (EHS) (40 CFR Part 355):

TPQ: e.g., None

EHS RQ (40 CFR 355): e.g., None

SECTIONS 311/312: Require submission of MSDSs and reporting of chemical inventories with identification of EPA hazard categories. The hazard categories for this product are as follows:

IMMEDIATE: Yes

DELAYED: No

PRESSURE: Yes

REACTIVITY: No

FIRE: Yes

SECTION 313: Requires submission of annual reports of release of toxic chemicals that appear in 40 CFR Part 372.

Ethylene is subject to the reporting requirements of Section 313 of Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA) and 40CFR Part 372.

40 CFR 68: RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR CHEMICAL ACCIDENTAL RELEASE PREVENTION: Requires development and implementation of risk management programs at facilities that manufacture, use, store, or otherwise handle regulated substances in quantities that exceed specified thresholds.

Ethylene is listed as a regulated substance in quantities of 10,000 lb (4536 kg) or greater.

TSCA: TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT: Ethylene is listed on the TSCA inventory.

OSHA: OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION:

29 CFR 1910.119: PROCESS SAFETY MANAGEMENT OF HIGHLY HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS: Requires facilities to develop a process safety management program based on Threshold Quantities (TQ) of highly hazardous chemicals.

Ethylene is not listed in Appendix A as a highly hazardous chemical. However, any process that involves a flammable gas on site in one location in quantities of 10,000 lb (4536 kg) or greater is covered under this regulation unless the gas is used as a fuel.

STATE REGULATIONS:

CALIFORNIA: Ethylene is not listed by California under the SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1986 (Proposition 65).

PENNSYLVANIA: Ethylene is subject to the PENNSYLVANIA WORKER AND COMMUNITY RIGHT-TO-KNOW ACT (35 P.S. Sections 7301-7320).

16. Other Information

Be sure to read and understand all labels and instructions supplied with all containers of this product.

OTHER HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS OF HANDLING, STORAGE, AND USE: *Flammable, high-pressure gas.* Use piping and equipment adequately designed to withstand pressures to be encountered. Use a backflow prevention device in any piping. Use only in a closed system. **All piped ethylene systems and associated equipment must be grounded.** Electrical equipment must be non-sparking or explosion-proof. Keep away from heat, sparks, and open flame. **May cause frostbite.** Avoid contact with skin and eyes. **Gas can cause rapid suffocation due to oxygen deficiency.** Store and use with adequate ventilation at all times. Close cylinder valve after each use; keep closed even when empty. **Never work on a pressurized system.** If there is a leak, close the cylinder valve. Blow the system down in a safe and environmentally sound manner in compliance with all federal, state, and local laws; then repair the leak. **Never place a compressed gas cylinder where it may become part of an electrical circuit.**

NOTE: Prior to using any plastics, confirm their compatibility with ethylene.

Mixtures. When you mix two or more gases or liquefied gases, you can 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 evaluate the end product. Remember, gases and liquids have properties that can cause serious injury or death.

HAZARD RATING SYSTEMS:**NFPA RATINGS:**

HEALTH = 2
FLAMMABILITY = 4
INSTABILITY = 2
SPECIAL = None

HMIS RATINGS:

HEALTH = 1
FLAMMABILITY = 4
PHYSICAL HAZARD = 3

STANDARD VALVE CONNECTIONS FOR U.S. AND CANADA:

THREADED: CGA-350
PIN-INDEXED YOKE: CGA-900
ULTRA-HIGH-INTEGRITY CONNECTION: Not applicable.

Use the proper CGA connections. **DO NOT USE ADAPTERS.** Additional limited-standard connections may apply. See CGA pamphlet V-1 listed below.

Ask your supplier about free Praxair safety literature as referred to in this MSDS and on the label for this product. Further information can be found in the following pamphlets published by the Compressed Gas Association, Inc. (CGA), 4221 Walney Road, 5th Floor, Chantilly, VA 20151-2923, Telephone (703) 788-2700, <http://www.cganet.com/Publication.asp>.

AV-1 *Safe Handling and Storage of Compressed Gases*
P-1 *Safe Handling of Compressed Gases in Containers*
SB-2 *Oxygen-Deficient Atmospheres*
V-1 *Compressed Gas Cylinder Valve Inlet and Outlet Connections*
— *Handbook of Compressed Gases, Fourth Edition*

Praxair asks users of this product to study this MSDS and become aware of product hazards and safety information. To promote safe use of this product, a user should (1) notify employees, agents, and contractors of the information in this MSDS and of any other known product hazards and safety information, (2) furnish this information to each purchaser of the product, and (3) ask each purchaser to notify its employees and customers of the product hazards and safety information.

The opinions expressed herein are those of qualified experts within Praxair, Inc. We believe that the information contained herein is current as of the date of this Material Safety Data Sheet. Since the use of this information and the conditions of use of the product are not within the control of Praxair, Inc., it is the user's obligation to determine the conditions of safe use of the product.

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