

MATERIAL SAFETY DATASHEET

BUTANE

(Please ensure that this MSDS is received by an appropriate person)

Date: January 2018

Version1

Ref no.: MSMAL010

1 PRODUCT AND COMPANY IDENTIFICATION

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Product Names	n-BUTANE iso-Butane
Chemical Formula	C ₄ H ₁₀
Trade Name	Butane, Pure
Colour Coding	Dulux Light Weatherwork Grey body with Red (A11) circle, 250 mm diameter, below the valve.
Valve	OMECA – Brass 5/8 inch BSP left hand female. (vapour outlet). Liquid outlet. ¼ inch flare fitting.
Company Identification	AFROX MALAWI LIMITED Johnstone Road Ginnery Corner, Blantyre Tel No: +265 (1) 871 611 Fax No: +265 (1) 871 260 +265 (1) 871 611 (24hours)
EMERGENCY No.	

2 COMPOSITION/INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS

Chemical Names	n-Butane iso-Butane
Chemical Family	Aliphatic hydrocarbons
CAS No.	106-97-8
UN No.	1011
ERG No.	115
Hazchem Warning	Flammable gas 1

3 HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION

Main Hazards. Vapourised Butane liquid is highly flammable and can form explosive mixtures with air. The flammability limits in air are 1,8 -8,4% by volume. Vapourised Butane does not support life. It can act as a simple asphyxiant by diluting the concentration of oxygen in air to below levels necessary to support life. Exposure to the liquid phase could result in serious cold burns.

Adverse Health effects. Butane is non-toxic. Prolonged inhalation of high concentrations has an anaesthetic effect, but could also act as a simple asphyxiant by displacing the oxygen in the air to below levels necessary to support life.

Chemical hazards. On complete combustion no hazardous compounds are formed.

Biological hazards. Contact with the liquid phase could result in frostbite.

Vapour inhalation. Since vapourised Butane acts as a simple asphyxiant, death may result from errors in judgement, confusion, or loss of consciousness which prevents self-rescue. At low oxygen concentrations, unconsciousness and death may occur in seconds without warning.

Eye Contact. Vapour Phase - None
Liquid Phase - Serious cold burns could result

Skin Contact. Vapour Phase - None
Liquid Phase - Frostbite

Ingestion. Liquid Phase - Serious cold burns could result

Labelling Elements:

Hazard Pictograms



Signal Word: Danger

Hazard Statements:

H220: Extremely Flammable gas

Precautionary Statements:

(SEE FIRST AID MEASURES SECTION FOR TREATMENTS)

P210: Keep away from heat/sparks/open flame/hot surfaces-No smoking (manufacturer/supplier or competent authority to specify applicable ignition sources).

P377: Leaking gas fire: Do not extinguish, unless leak can be stopped safely.

P381: Eliminate all ignition sources if safe to do so.

P403: Store in a well ventilated place - -f product is not volatile so as to generate a hazardous atmosphere.

4 FIRST AID MEASURES

Prompt medical attention is mandatory in all cases of overexposure to vapourised Butane. Rescue personnel should be equipped with self-contained breathing apparatus. In case of frostbite from contact with the liquid phase, place the frost-bitten part in warm water, about 40-42°C. If warm water is not available, wrap the affected part gently in blankets. Encourage the patient to exercise the affected part whilst it is being warmed. Do not remove clothing while frosted. Conscious persons should be assisted to an uncontaminated area and inhale fresh air. Quick removal from the contaminated area is most important. Unconscious persons should be removed to an uncontaminated area, and given mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and supplemental oxygen.

Eye contact. (With liquid phase) Immediately flush with large quantities of tepid water, or with sterile saline solution. Seek medical attention.

Skin contact. (With liquid phase) See above for handling of frostbite.

Ingestion. No known effect

5 FIRE FIGHTING MEASURES

Extinguishing media. Do not extinguish fire unless the leakage can be stopped. Do not use water jet. Use dry chemical, CO₂ or foam.

Specific hazards. The rupturing cylinders or bulk containers due to excessive exposure to a fire could result in a BLEVE (Boiling Liquid Expanding Vapour Explosion), with disastrous effects. As the flammability limits in air for Butane are 1,8 - 8,4% by volume, extreme care must be taken when handling leaks.

Emergency actions. If possible, shut off the source of the spillage. Evacuate area. Post notices "NO NAKED LIGHTS - NO SMOKING". Prevent liquid or vapour from entering sewers, basements and work-pits. Keep cylinders or bulk vessels cool by spraying with water if exposed to a fire. If tanker has overturned, do not attempt to right or move it. CONTACT THE NEAREST BOC BRANCH.

Protective clothing. Self-contained breathing apparatus. Safety gloves, goggles and shoes or boots should be worn when handling containers.

Environmental precautions. Vaporised Butane is heavier than air and could form pockets of oxygen-deficient atmosphere in low-lying areas.

6 ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES

Personal Precautions. Do not enter any area where Butane has been spilled unless tests have shown that it is safe to do so.

Environmental precautions. The danger of widespread formation of explosive Butane/Air mixtures should be taken into account. Accidental ignition could result in a massive explosion.

Small spills. DO NOT extinguish the fire unless the leakage can be stopped immediately. Once the fire has been extinguished and all spills have been stopped, ventilate the area.

Large spills. Stop the source if it can be done without risk. Contain the leaking liquid with sand or earth, or disperse with special water/fog spray nozzle. Allow to evaporate. Take the precautions as listed above under "Emergency Actions". Restrict access to the area until completion of the clean-up procedure. Ventilate the area using forced draught if necessary. All electrical equipment should be flameproof.

7 HANDLING AND STORAGE

Cylinders containing Butane should only be handled and stored in the vertical position. Cylinders should never be rolled. Do not allow cylinders to slide or come into contact with sharp edges, and they should be handled carefully. Ensure that cylinders are stored away from other oxidants. Comply with all local legislation. Keep out of reach of children.

8 EXPOSURE CONTROLS/PERSONAL PROTECTION

Occupational exposure hazards. As vapourised Butane is a simple asphyxiant, avoid any areas where spillage has taken place. Only enter once testing has proved the atmosphere to be safe.

Engineering control measures. Engineering control measures are preferred to reduce exposure to oxygen depleted atmospheres. General methods include forced-draught ventilation, separate from other exhaust ventilation systems. Ensure that sufficient fresh air enters at, or near, floor level. Ensure that all electrical equipment is flameproof.

Personal protection. Self-contained breathing apparatus should always be worn when entering area where oxygen depletion may have occurred. Safety goggles, gloves and shoes, or boots, should be worn when handling containers.

Skin. Wear loose-fitting overalls, preferably without pockets.

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9 PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

PHYSICAL DATA

Chemical Symbol	C ₄ H ₁₀
Molecular Weight	58,123
Density, gas @ 21.1°C & 101,35 kPa	2,407 kg/m ³
Relative density (Air = 1)	2,007
Auto-ignition temperature	405°C
Flammability limits in air	1,8 - 8,5% (by volume)
Colour	None
Taste	None
Odour	Slight

10 STABILITY AND REACTIVITY

Conditions to avoid. The dilution of the oxygen concentration in the atmosphere to levels which cannot support life. The formation of explosive gas/air mixtures.

Incompatible materials. Any common, commercially available metals may be used with Butane as it is non-corrosive, though installations must be designed to withstand the pressures involved and must comply with all state and local regulations.

Hazardous Decomposition products. The formation of carbon monoxide may occur when incomplete combustion occurs.

11 TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Acute Toxicity	TLV 600 vpm
Skin & eye contact	No known effect
Chronic Toxicity	No known effect
Carcinogenicity	Severe cold burns can result in carcinoma
Mutagenicity	No known effect
Reproductive Hazards	No known effect

12 ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Vapourised Butane is heavier than air, and can cause pockets of oxygen-depleted atmosphere in low-lying areas. It does not pose a hazard to the ecology, unless the gas/air mixture is ignited.

13 DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS

Disposal Methods. Personnel familiar with the gas and the procedures for disposal, as with other gases, should only undertake disposal of Butane. Contact supplier for instructions. In general, should it become necessary to dispose of Butane, the best procedure, as for other flammable gases, is to burn it in any suitable burning unit available in the plant. This should be done in accordance with the appropriate regulations.

Disposal of packaging. The gas supplier must only handle the disposal of containers.

14 TRANSPORT INFORMATION

ROAD TRANSPORTATION

UN No.	1011
ERG No.	115
Hazchem warning	Flam gas 1

SEA TRANSPORTATION

IMDG	1011
Class	Flam gas 1
Label	Flammable gas

AIR TRANSPORTATION

ICAO/IATA Code	1011
Class	Flam gas 1
Packaging instructions	
- Cargo	200
- Passenger	Forbidden
Maximum quantity allowed	
- Cargo	150 kg
- Passenger	Forbidden

15 REGULATORY INFORMATION

Reference standard: SANS 10234 and supplement
National legislation: OHSAct and Regulation (85 of 1993)

16 OTHER INFORMATION

SANS 10234-Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and Matheson Gas data book

EXCLUSION OF LIABILITY

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