

# MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

## R408A

Date : April 2001

### 1 PRODUCT AND COMPANY IDENTIFICATION

#### PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION

Product Name R408A  
 Chemical Formula CHCl F2 plus CHF2 – CF3  
 plus CH3 – CF3  
 Trade Name R408A  
 Colour Coding Disposable cylinder with a Beige body and the relevant grade stencilled onto the cylinder  
 Valve ¼ inch flare fitting  
 Company Identification African Oxygen Limited  
 23 Webber Street  
 Johannesburg, 2001  
 Tel. No: (011) 490-0400  
 Fax No: (011) 490-0506

### 2 COMPOSITION/INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS

Chemical Names A preparation of HFC22, HFC125, HFC143a  
 Chemical Family Mixtures of Halocarbons  
 Cas Nos. HFC22, HFC125, HFC143a  
 075-45-6, 420-46-2, 354-33-6  
 UN No. 1078  
 ERG No 126  
 Hazchem Warning 2C non-flammable gas

### 3 HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION

**Main Hazards.** All cylinders are portable gas containers, and must be regarded as pressure vessels at all times.

**Adverse Health effects.** Contains a liquefied gas. Contact with liquid may cause frostbite and injury to the cornea. In high concentrations may cause asphyxiation.

**Chemical hazards.** Heating will cause a rise in pressure with a risk of the cylinders bursting. On combustion, toxic gases are released.

**Biological hazards.** Contact with liquid could cause frost burns.

**Vapour Inhalation.** High exposures may cause an abnormal heart rhythm and prove suddenly fatal. May have a narcotic effect, very high concentrations may cause anaesthetic effects and asphyxiation.

**Eye Contact.** Vapour - unknown effect . Liquid - could cause serious burns

**Skin Contact.** Vapour - unknown effect

**Ingestion.** Liquid - see vapour inhalation above

### 4 FIRST AID MEASURES

Prompt medical attention is mandatory in all cases of overexposure to vaporised R408a. Rescue personnel should be equipped with self-contained breathing apparatus. Conscious persons should be assisted to an uncontaminated area and inhale fresh air. Unconscious persons should be removed to an uncontaminated area and given mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and supplemental oxygen. The use of adrenaline or similar drugs should be avoided.

**Eye contact.** (Liquid) Rinse with water whilst keeping the eyes wide open for at least 15 minutes. Consult an eye specialist immediately.

**Skin contact.** (Liquid) Thaw affected areas with water. Remove contaminated clothing and then rinse again with water. If it sticks, do not pull it off. Call a doctor immediately.

**Ingestion.** Not specifically applicable (gas). Do not induce vomiting. If patient conscious, wash out mouth with water and give 200 - 300ml water to drink. Obtain immediate medical attention.

**Inhalation.** Remove patient from exposure, keep warm and at rest. Administer oxygen if necessary. Apply artificial respiration if breathing has ceased or shows signs of failing. In the event of cardiac arrest apply external cardiac massage. Obtain immediate medical attention.

**Extinguishing media.** All extinguishing agents can be used. If there is a fire close by, use suitable extinguishing agents.

**Specific hazards.** Pressurised container. On heating there is a risk of bursting due to internal pressure build-up NOT flammable. However, it may present a risk in the event of fire. Toxic vapours (Halogen compounds ) are released.

**Emergency actions.** Stay upwind. Evacuate all personnel away from the fumes. Cool down the containers/equipment exposed to heat with a water spray.

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

**Environmental precautions.** Prevent the product from spreading into the environment

### 6 ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES

**Personal precautions.** Avoid contact with skin and eyes. Do not breathe gas. For further information refer to 8 "Exposure-controls/Personal Protection" Heavy vapours. Shut off low-level openings in the vicinity (ventilation shafts, drains) Prevent the product from entering cellars, basements or pits. Stop the leak. Ventilate spillage area and basements.

**Environmental precautions.** Prevent the product from spreading into the environment.

**Small spills.** Shut off source of product. Ventilate area.

**Large spills.** Evacuate the area. Shut off the source of the spill if this can be done without risk. Restrict access to the area until completion of the clean-up procedure. Ventilate the area using forced-draught if necessary.

### 7 HANDLING AND STORAGE

Suck back of water into the container must be prevented. Do not allow backfeed into the container. Use only properly specified equipment which is suitable for this product, its supply pressure and temperature. Contact your gas supplier if in doubt. Refer to supplier's container handling instructions. Keep container below 50°C in a well ventilated place. Do not allow cylinders to slide or come into contact with sharp edges. Cylinders should be stacked vertically at all times, and should be firmly secured in order to prevent them from being knocked over. Use a "first in - first out" inventory system to prevent full cylinders from being stored for excessive periods of time. Keep out of reach of children.

### 8 EXPOSURE CONTROLS/PERSONAL PROTECTION

**Occupational exposure hazards.** As R408a is a simple asphyxiant, avoid any areas where spillage has taken place. Only enter once testing has proved the atmosphere to be safe, and remember that the gas is heavier than air.

**Engineering control measures.** Engineering control measures are preferred to reduce exposures 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.

**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 cylinders.

**Skin.** No known effect.

### 9 PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

#### PHYSICAL DATA

Chemical Symbol	Mixture
Molecular Weight	Mixture
Boiling point @ 101,325 kPa	-43.5°C
Colour	colourless
Taste	N/A
Odour	Slightly ethereal

### 5 FIRE FIGHTING MEASURES

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## 10 STABILITY AND REACTIVITY

**Conditions to avoid.** The dilution of oxygen concentration in the atmosphere to levels which cannot support life. Never use cylinders as rollers or supports, or for any other purpose than the storing of R408a. Never expose the cylinders to excessive heat, as this may cause sufficient build-up of pressure to rupture the cylinders.

**Incompatible materials.** Since the performance of plastic materials is affected by polymer variations, compounding agents, fillers, and moulding processes, verify compatibility using actual fabricated parts under end-use conditions. The effects on specific elastomers depend on the nature of the polymer, the compounding formulation used and the curing of vulcanizing conditions. Actual samples should be tested under end-use conditions before specifying elastomers for critical components.

**Hazardous Decomposition Products.** Combustion, or thermal decomposition, will release toxic gases. (Fluorinated compounds).

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## 11 TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Acute Toxicity (TWA 8+12 hr)

Skin & eye contact No known effect

Chronic Toxicity No known effect

Carcinogenicity No known effect

Mutagenicity No known effect

Reproductive Hazards No known effect

(For further information see Section 3. Adverse health effects)

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## 12 ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

**Environmental.** Dangerous to the ozone layer.

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## 13 DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS

**Disposal Methods.** Do not allow the product to be released into the environment. Consult the manufacturer of supplier for information regarding recovery and recycling of the product.

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## 14 TRANSPORT INFORMATION

### ROAD TRANSPORTATION

UN No. 1078

ERG No 126

Hazchem warning 2 C Non-flammable gas

### SEA TRANSPORTATION

IMDG 1078

Class 2.2

Label Non-flammable gas

### AIR TRANSPORTATION

ICAO/IATA Code 1078

Class 2.2

Packaging instructions

- Cargo 200

- Passenger 200

Maximum quantity allowed

- Cargo 150kgs

- Passenger 75kgs

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## 15 REGULATORY INFORMATION

EEC Hazard class Non flammable gas

Risk phrases R20 Harmful by inhalation.

R34 Liquid phase could cause burns

R44 Risk of explosion when heated under confinement

R59 Dangerous for the ozone layer.

Safety phrases S9 Keep container in a well-ventilated place

S15 Keep away from heat

S23 Do not breathe the gas

S36 Wear suitable protective clothing

S41 In case of fire / explosion, do not breathe fumes.

S51 Use only in well ventilated areas

S59 Refer to manufacturer/supplier for information on recovery/recycling.

S61 Avoid release to the environment.

National legislation None

Refer to SABS 0265 for explanation of the above

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## 16 OTHER INFORMATION

Bibliography

Occupational Exposure Standard (UK HSE EH40)

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## 17 EXCLUSION OF LIABILITY

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