



# Material Safety Data Sheet

(Essentially Similar to U.S. Department of Labor Suggested  
Form For Hazard Communication Compliance)

## I. Product Identification

**Product Type** - AIRGAS SOLID STEEL WELDING WIRE

**Manufacturer** - AIRGAS, INC.

**Telephone No.** - 1-610-687-5253

**Address** - P. O. Box 6675  
Radnor, PA 19087

**Emergency No.** - 1-800-424-9300

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### APPROXIMATE COMPOSITION OF STEEL WIRES

<u>Product Trade Name</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Mn</u>	<u>Si</u>	<u>Cu</u>	<u>Fe</u>	<u>AWS Classification*</u>
ArcPlus 6	<0.5	1-2	<1.2	<0.5	Balance	ER70S-6

\* AWS A5.18 Specification

∂ See Note in Section VI

**AIRGAS, INC.** requests the users of these products to study this Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) and become aware of the product hazards and safety information. To promote the safe use of these products a user should (1) notify its employees, agents and contractors of the information on this MSDS and any product hazards and safety information, (2) furnish this same information to each of its customers for these products, and (3) request that such customers notify their employees and customers, for these products, of the same product hazards and safety information.

## II. Hazardous Ingredients

**IMPORTANT:** This section covers the materials from which this product is manufactured. The fumes and gases produced during normal use of these products are covered in Section V. The term **HAZARDOUS** should be interpreted as a term required and defined by Laws, Statutes, or Regulations, and does not necessarily imply the existence of any hazard when the products are used as directed by **AIRGAS, INC.**

Material	(CAS No.)	SARA	ACGIH TLV (1998)		OSHA - PEL (1993)		
			TWA (mg/m <sup>3</sup> )		TWA (mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	STEL (mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	
Carbon	(7440-44-0)		3.5	(Carbon Black)	3.5	(Carbon Black)	--
Copper	(7440-50-8)	*	0.2	(Fume)	0.1	(Fume)	--
Iron	(7439-89-6)		5	(Oxide Fume)	10	(Total Particulate)	--
Manganese	(7439-96-5)	*	0.2	(Fume) C 5 (STEL)	1	(Fume)	3
Silicon	(7440-21-3)		10	(Dust)	5	(Respirable)	--

**NOTE:** In the ingredients table, an asterisk (\*) after the CAS number indicates a toxic chemical subject to the reporting requirements of Section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act of 1986 (SARA) and 40 CFR Part 372.

In the table above, "C" indicates "Ceiling Limit."

## III. Physical Data

As shipped, these products are nonflammable, non-explosive, non-reactive, and non-hazardous

**Physical State:** GAS ( ) LIQUID ( ) SOLID (X)

**Odor and Appearance:** Copper coated or bare, solid steel wire, odorless.

## IV. Fire & Explosion Hazard

**Flammable/Explosive:** NO (X) YES ( )

**Under what conditions:** Only the packaging for this product will burn.

**Extinguishing Media:** This product will not burn; however, welding arcs and sparks can ignite combustible and flammable materials. Use the extinguishing media recommended for the burning materials and fire situation. See ANSI Z49.1 "Safety in Welding and Cutting" and "Safe Practices" Code: SP, published by the American Welding Society, P. O. Box 351040, Miami, FL 33135, and NFPA 51B "Cutting and Welding Processes," published by the National Fire Protection Association, Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02269 for additional fire prevention and protection information.

## V. Reactivity Data

**Stability:** Stable (X) Unstable ( ) Polymerization will not occur

**Incompatible products:** None currently known

**Hazardous decomposition products:** Welding fumes and gases cannot be classified simply. The composition and quantity of both are dependent upon the material being worked, the process, procedures and consumables used. Other conditions which also influence the composition and quantity of the fumes and gases to which workers may be exposed include: coatings on the material being worked (such as paint, plating or galvanizing), the number of welding operations and the volume of the work area, the quality and amount of ventilation, the position of the worker's head with respect to the fume plume, as well as the presence of contaminants in the atmosphere (such as chlorinated hydrocarbon vapors from cleaning or painting activities). When the materials are consumed, the fume and gas decomposition products generated are different in percent and form from the ingredients listed in Section II. Decomposition products of normal operation include those originating from the volatilization, reaction, or oxidation of the ingredients, plus those from the material being worked and the coatings etc. noted above.

**Reasonably expected decomposition products** from normal use of these products include a complex of the oxides of the materials listed in Section II, as well as carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, ozone and nitrogen oxides (refer to "Characterization of Arc Welding Fume" available from the American Welding Society). THE TLV FOR MANGANESE (0.2 mg/m<sup>3</sup>) WILL BE REACHED BEFORE THE GENERAL LIMIT FOR WELDING FUMES OF 5 mg/m<sup>3</sup> IS REACHED. The only way to determine the true identity of the decomposition products is by sampling and analysis. The composition and quantity of the fumes and gases to which a worker may be overexposed can be determined from a sample obtained from inside the welder's helmet, if worn, or in the workers breathing zone. See ANSI/AWS F1.1 "Method for Sampling Airborne Particles Generated by Welding and Allied Processes," available from the American Welding Society.

## VI. Physical and Health Hazard Data

Electric arc working may create one or more of the following health or physical hazards. Fumes and gases can be dangerous to your health. Electric shock can kill you. Arc rays can injure eyes and burn skin. Noise can damage hearing.

**Route of overexposure:** The primary route of entry of the decomposition products is by inhalation. Skin contact, eye contact, and ingestion are possible. Absorption by skin contact is unlikely. When these products are used as recommended by AIRGAS, INC., and ventilation maintains exposure to the decomposition products below the limits recommended in this section, overexposure is unlikely.

**Effects of acute (short-term) overexposure** to the gases, fumes, and dusts may include irritation of the eyes, lungs, nose, and throat. Some toxic gases associated with welding may cause pulmonary edema, asphyxiation, and death. Acute overexposure may include signs and symptoms such as watery eyes, nose and throat irritation, headache, dizziness, difficulty in breathing, frequent coughing, or chest pain.

**Pre-existing Medical Conditions Aggravated by Overexposure:** Individuals with allergies or impaired respiratory function may have symptoms worsened by exposure to welding fumes; however, such reaction cannot be predicted due to the variation in composition and quantity of the decomposition products.

**Effects of chronic (long-term) overexposure** to air contaminants may lead to their accumulation in the lungs, a condition which may be seen as dense areas on chest X-rays. The severity of the change is proportional to the length of the exposure. The changes seen are not necessarily associated with symptoms or signs of reduced lung function or disease. In addition, the changes on X-rays may be caused by non-work factors such as smoking, etc. Overexposure to manganese compounds may affect the central nervous system, symptoms of which are languor, sleepiness, muscular weakness, emotional disturbances, and spastic gait.

**Exposure limits** for the ingredients are listed in Section II. The 1989 OSHA TWA for welding fume is 5 mg/m<sup>3</sup>. TLV-TWAs should be used as a guide in the control of health hazards and not as fine lines between safe and excessive concentrations. When these products are used as recommended by **AIRGAS, INC.**, and the preventive measures taught in this MSDS are followed, overexposure to hazardous substances will not occur.

**Emergency First Aid Measures:** In case of emergency, call for medical aid. Employ first aid technique recommended by the Red Cross. **IF BREATHING IS DIFFICULT**, give oxygen and call for a physician. **FOR ELECTRIC SHOCK**, disconnect and turn off the power. If not breathing, begin artificial respiration, preferably mouth-to-mouth. If no detectable pulse, begin Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). Immediately call a physician. **FOR ARC BURN**, apply cold, clean compresses and call a physician.

**Carcinogenic Assessment (NTP Annual Report, IARC Monographs, Other):** None.

⊃ **WARNING:** This product, when used for welding or cutting, produces fumes or gases which contain chemicals known to the State of California to cause birth defects and, in some cases, cancer. (California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 et seq.)

## VII. Precautions for Safe Handling and Use/Applicable Control Measures

Read and understand the manufacturer's instructions and the precautionary label on this product. See American National Standard Z-49.1, "Safety in Welding and Cutting," published by the American Welding Society, P. O. Box 351040, Miami, FL 33135 and OSHA Publication 2206 (29 C.F.R. 1910), U.S. Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954 for more detail on many of the following:

**Ventilation:** Use enough ventilation, local exhaust at the arc, or both, to keep the fumes and gases below the TLVs in the worker's breathing zone and the general area. Train the welder to keep his head out of the fumes.

**Respiratory Protection:** Use respirable fume respirator or air supplied respirator when welding in confined space or where local exhaust or ventilation does not keep exposure below TLV.

**Eye Protection:** Wear helmet or use face shield with filter lens. As a rule of thumb, start with a shade which is too dark to see the weld zone. Then go to the next lighter shade which gives sufficient view of the weld zone. Provide protective screens and flash goggles, if necessary, to shield others.

**Protective Clothing:** Wear head, hand, and body protection which help to prevent injury from radiation, sparks and electrical shock. See ANSI Z-49.1. At a minimum, this includes welder's gloves and a protective face shield and may include arm protectors, aprons, hats, shoulder protection, as well as dark substantial clothing. Train the welder not to touch live electrical parts and to insulate himself from work and ground.

**Procedure for Cleanup of Spills or Leaks:** NOT APPLICABLE

**Waste Disposal Method:** Prevent waste from contaminating surrounding environment. Discard any product, residue, disposable container, or liner in an environmentally acceptable manner, in full compliance with Federal, State and Local regulations.

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The opinions expressed in this MSDS are those of qualified experts within **AIRGAS, INC.** We believe that the information contained herein is current as of the date of this MSDS. Since the use of this information and these opinions and the conditions of use of these products are not within the control of **AIRGAS, INC.**, it is the user's obligation to determine the conditions of safe use of these products.