



Designation: D7325 – 21

Standard Practice for Handling, Transportation, and Storage of IG-541 N₂, Ar, CO₂¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D7325; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ε) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This practice covers guidance and direction to suppliers, purchasers, and users in the handling, transportation, and storage of IG-541.

1.2 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.4 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 CGA Standards:²

C-1 Methods for Pressure Testing Compressed Gas Cylinders

C-6 Standards for Visual Inspection of Steel Compressed Gas Cylinders

C-7 Guide to Classification and Labeling of Compressed Gases

P-1 Standard for Safe Handling of Compressed Gases in Containers

2.2 U.S. Government Standards:³

49 CFR Part 172 Hazardous Materials Table, Special Provisions, Hazardous Materials Communications, Emer-

gency Response Information, Training Requirements, and Security Plans

49 CFR Part 172.101 Purpose and Use of Hazardous Materials Table

49 CFR Part 173 Shippers—General Requirements for Shipments and Packagings

49 CFR Part 178 Specifications for Packagings

49 CFR Part 180 Continuing Qualification and Maintenance of Packagings

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *containers, n*—storage vessels for IG-541.

3.1.2 *cylinders, n*—containers of IG-541.

3.1.3 *IG-541 (N₂, Ar, CO₂), n*—a mixture used to inert or suppress a fire or explosion hazard.

3.1.4 *insulated, adj*—placed in an isolated situation to protect and prevent the transfer of damage.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This practice provides requirements for the handling, transportation, and storage of IG-541 encountered in distribution through both commercial and military channels. It is intended to ensure that IG-541 is handled, transported, and stored in such a way that its physical property virtues are not degraded. Transport may be by various means, such as, but not limited to, highway, rail, and water.

5. Practice

5.1 To ensure safe handling, loading, unloading, storing, and transporting of material, personnel shall be trained in the CGA publications and CFR regulations as listed in 2.1 and 2.2, respectively.

5.2 Handling:

5.2.1 Handling shall be in accordance with CGA Publication P-1 and as specified by the manufacturer.

5.2.1.1 Personnel who handle or store, or both, cylinders of IG-541 shall be trained properly to recognize and identify the characteristics of the product and the proper methods of safely handling full, partially full, and empty cylinders.

5.2.2 All IG-541 transfers between storage containers and recycling processes shall be performed by personnel trained in handling procedures.

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D26 on Halogenated Organic Solvents and Fire Extinguishing Agents and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D26.09 on Fire Extinguishing Agents.

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² Available from Compressed Gas Association (CGA), 8484 Westpark Drive, Suite 220, McLean, VA 22102, <https://www.cganet.com>.

³ Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) documents are available from U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO), 732 N. Capitol St., NW, Washington, DC 20401, <https://www.gpo.gov>.

5.2.3 The IG-541 recycling and transfer processes shall be in conjunction with the equipment specified by the manufacturer.

5.2.4 The handling of IG-541 shall be in nonsmoking, heater-free, ventilated areas to preclude product accumulation. Provisions shall be made to ensure that service area IG-541 concentrations do not exceed 52 % (10 % Sea Level Oxygen equivalency) for 30 s and 7 % (19.5 % Sea Level Oxygen Equivalency) for 8 h.

5.2.5 Cylinders shall not be overfilled. The maximum permitted filling density for pure IG-541 shall be .088 lb/ft³ (1.409 kg/m³). Filling density requirements are specified in 49 CFR Part 173.304 and 49 CFR Part 173.305.

5.2.6 Handling of materials should be done in a manner that prevents contamination or comingling of materials other than IG-541.

5.2.7 Cylinders shall be free of dirt and contamination that would contribute to or would cause deterioration of product during shipment or storage. Precautions should be taken to prevent the entry of oil, water, or any other foreign matter into containers. Unique coatings or preservatives applied prior to shipment to protect the containers are not considered contamination.

5.3 *Transportation:*

5.3.1 Transportation shall be as specified in accordance with 49 CFR regulations.

5.3.1.1 Shipment of materials between collectors, recyclers, and reclaimers should be within approved Department of Transportation (DOT) guidelines for Class 2, Division 2.2, regulated materials. Any further provisions for special transportation or packaging should be agreed upon between the collectors, recyclers, and reclaimers.

5.3.1.2 The minimum design pressure requirements shall be as indicated in 49 CFR Part 173.301. The pressure inside the container at 70 °F (21 °C) shall not exceed the service pressure for which the container is marked. The pressure inside the container at 130 °F (54 °C) shall not exceed 5/4 times the service pressure for which the container is marked. **Figs. 1 and 2** illustrate the effect of temperature on cylinders filled with IG-541.

5.3.2 Transportation shall be by suitable vehicles to preclude cylinder damage by excessive mechanical vibration, shock, freezing, or deleterious high temperatures throughout the entire transport route.

5.3.2.1 If cylinders are expected to be subjected to unacceptable transport conditions, the cylinders should be placed under insulated conditions.

5.3.3 Compressed gas cylinder permanent marking requirements shall be as specified under 49 CFR Part 178 and must be maintained in legible condition as required by 49 CFR Part 173.

5.4 *Storage:*

5.4.1 Storage shall be in accordance with CGA Publication P-1 in qualified cylinders in accordance with 49 CFR Parts 173 and 178.

5.4.2 Cylinders should be stored in areas that will protect vessels from physical and environmental damage and tampering from unauthorized personnel.

5.4.2.1 Facilities should be of construction and orientation so that safety requirements are fulfilled for the storage of pressurized cylinders.

5.4.3 Storage cylinders shall be fitted with pressure release mechanisms to limit vessel pressure to not more than the rated working pressure of the IG-541 container in use at any particular time.

5.4.3.1 Periodic hydrostatic testing and reinspection of cylinders used for IG-541 shall comply with 49 CFR Part 180.

5.4.4 Insulation shall be placed on pallets or shoring, and provisions should be made to prevent excessive shock or thermal fluctuations to cylinders.

5.4.5 Cylinders shall be stored in a manner that will prevent contamination from external sources.

6. **Keywords**

6.1 N₂; Ar; CO₂; compressed gas; cylinders; explosion suppressant; fire suppressant; INERGEN⁴; handling; IG-541; storage; transport

⁴ INERGEN is a registered trademark of Tyco Fire Products LP.