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**Welding consumables — Gases and gas mixtures for fusion welding and allied processes**

*Produits consommables pour le soudage — Gaz et mélanges gazeux pour le soudage par fusion et les techniques connexes*

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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 14175 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 44, *Welding and allied processes*, Subcommittee SC 3, *Welding consumables*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 14175:1997) which has been technically revised.

Requests for official interpretations of any aspect of this International Standard should be directed to the Secretariat of ISO/TC 44/SC 3 via your national standards body, a complete listing of which can be found at [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org).

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# Welding consumables — Gases and gas mixtures for fusion welding and allied processes

## 1 Scope

This International Standard specifies requirements for the classification of gases and gas mixtures used in fusion welding and allied processes including, but not limited to:

- tungsten arc welding (Process 141);
- gas-shielded metal arc welding (Process 13);
- plasma arc welding (Process 15);
- plasma arc cutting (Process 83);
- laser welding (Process 52);
- laser cutting (Process 84);
- arc braze welding (Process 972).

NOTE Process numbers are in accordance with ISO 4063.

The purpose of this International Standard is to classify and designate shielding, backing, process and assist gases in accordance with their chemical properties and metallurgical behaviour as the basis for correct selection by the user and to simplify the possible qualification procedures.

Gas purities and mixing tolerances are specified as delivered by the supplier (manufacturer) and not at the point of use.

Gases or gas mixtures may be supplied in either liquid or gaseous form, but when used for welding and allied processes, the gases are always used in the gaseous form.

Fuel gases, such as acetylene, natural gas, propane, etc., and resonator gases, as used in gas lasers, are not covered by this International Standard.

Transportation and handling of gases and containers shall be in accordance with local, national and regional standards and regulations as required.

## 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 31-0:1992, *Quantities and units — Part 0: General principles*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

- 3.1 base gas**  
major or only component of a pure or mixed gas
- 3.2 classification**  
number of this International Standard, followed by the symbol for the gas or gas mixture (main group and sub-group)
- 3.3 component**  
gaseous substance that is essential to the performance of the gas mixture
- EXAMPLE In a mixture containing 11 % of CO<sub>2</sub> in argon, CO<sub>2</sub> is considered a component while argon is the base gas.
- 3.4 container**  
vessel used for the shipment and/or storage of pure or mixed gases in a gaseous or liquid state
- 3.5 designation**  
classification plus the symbols for all chemical components plus the nominal composition in volume percent
- NOTE Symbols for chemical components are given in 5.2.
- EXAMPLE A mixture of argon containing 11 % CO<sub>2</sub> is designated as ISO 14175-M20-ArC-11.
- 3.6 impurity**  
gaseous substance with chemical composition different from the base gas, component or gas mixture
- 3.7 mixture**  
gas consisting of two or more components
- 3.8 nominal value**  
percentage value of a component, quoted by the manufacturer or supplier, which corresponds to the general composition given by the designation
- 3.9 symbol**  
main-group and sub-group of a gas mixture
- NOTE Symbols are given in Table 2 (see also 5.1).
- EXAMPLE The symbol for a mixture of argon containing 11 % CO<sub>2</sub> is M20.

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## 4 Properties of gases

### 4.1 General

Relevant physical and chemical properties of the gases considered in this International Standard are given in Table 1.

Table 1 — Properties of gas components

Type of gas	Chemical symbol	Density <sup>a</sup> (air = 1,293) kg/m <sup>3</sup>	Relative density <sup>a</sup> to air	Boiling point at 0,101 MPa °C	Reactivity during welding
Argon	Ar	1,784	1,380	– 185,9	Inert
Helium	He	0,178	0,138	– 268,9	Inert
Carbon dioxide	CO <sub>2</sub>	1,977	1,529	– 78,5 <sup>b</sup>	Oxidizing
Oxygen	O <sub>2</sub>	1,429	1,105	– 183,0	Oxidizing
Nitrogen	N <sub>2</sub>	1,251	0,968	– 195,8	Low reactive <sup>c</sup>
Hydrogen	H <sub>2</sub>	0,090	0,070	– 252,8	Reducing

<sup>a</sup> Specified at 0 °C and 0,101 MPa (1,013 bar).  
<sup>b</sup> Sublimation temperature (solid to gas transition temperature).  
<sup>c</sup> The behaviour of nitrogen varies with different materials and applications. Possible influences must be considered by the user.

ISO 14175:2008

### 4.2 Rounding-off procedure

For purposes of determining compliance with the requirements of this International Standard, the actual test values obtained shall be subjected to the rounding-off rules of ISO 31-0:1992, Annex B, Rule A. If the measured values are obtained by equipment calibrated in units other than those of this International Standard, the measured values shall be converted to the units of this International Standard before rounding off. If an average value is to be compared to the requirements of this International Standard, rounding off shall be done only after calculating the average. In the case where the testing standard cited in the normative references of this International Standard contains instructions for rounding off that conflict with the instructions of this International Standard, the rounding-off requirements of the testing standard shall apply. The rounded-off results shall fulfill the requirements of the appropriate table for the classification under test.

## 5 Classification and designation

### 5.1 Classification

#### 5.1.1 General

Gases and gas mixtures shall be classified by the number of this International Standard, followed by the symbol for the gas in accordance with Table 2.

NOTE The classification is based on the reactivity of the gas or gas mixture.

### 5.1.2 Main group

The letter codes and numbers used for the main groups are:

- I: inert gases and inert gas mixtures;
- M1, M2 and M3: oxidising mixtures containing oxygen and/or carbon dioxide;
- C: highly oxidising gas and highly oxidising mixtures;
- R: reducing gas mixtures;
- N: low reactive gas or reducing gas mixtures, containing nitrogen;
- O: oxygen;
- Z: gas mixtures containing components not listed or mixtures outside the composition ranges listed in Table 2.

### 5.1.3 Sub-group

The main groups, except Z, are divided into sub-groups based on the presence and level of different components having an influence on the reactivity (see Table 2). The values indicated in Table 2 are nominal values.

### 5.1.4 Classification examples

EXAMPLE 1 For a gas mixture containing 6 % carbon dioxide, 4 % oxygen in argon:

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EXAMPLE 2 For a gas mixture containing 30 % helium in argon:

Classification: ISO 14175 – I3

EXAMPLE 3 For a gas mixture containing 5 % hydrogen in argon:

Classification: ISO 14175 – R1

EXAMPLE 4 For a gas mixture containing 0,05 % of oxygen in argon:

Classification: ISO 14175 – Z

## 5.2 Designation

### 5.2.1 General

Gases and gas mixtures are designated by the classification (see 5.1) and the symbols of their chemical components as below, followed by the corresponding nominal composition in volume percent:

- Ar: argon
- C: carbon dioxide
- H: hydrogen
- N: nitrogen



— O: oxygen

— He: helium

The base gas symbol shall be followed by the symbols for the other components in decreasing order of percent, followed by the nominal composition values, in volume percent, which are separated by a dash.

### 5.2.2 Designation examples

EXAMPLE 1 For a gas mixture containing 6 % carbon dioxide, 4 % oxygen in argon:

Classification: ISO 14175 – M25

Designation: ISO 14175 – M25 – ArCO – 6/4

EXAMPLE 2 For a gas mixture containing 30 % helium in argon:

Classification: ISO 14175 – I3

Designation: ISO 14175 – I3 – ArHe – 30

EXAMPLE 3 For a gas mixture containing 5 % hydrogen in argon:

Classification: ISO 14175 – R1

Designation: ISO 14175 – R1 – ArH – 5

EXAMPLE 4 For a gas mixture containing 7,5 % argon, 2,5 % carbon dioxide in helium:

Classification: ISO 14175 – M12

Designation: ISO 14175 – M12 – HeArC – 7,5/2,5

For gas mixtures containing components listed, but outside the ranges in Table 2, the letter Z prefixes the symbol for the base gas and symbols for components as above, followed by the nominal composition values, in volume percent, which are separated by a dash.

EXAMPLE 5 For a gas mixture containing 0,05 % of oxygen in argon:

Classification: ISO 14175 – Z

Designation: ISO 14175 – Z – ArO – 0,05

For gas mixtures containing components not listed in Table 2, the letter Z prefixes the symbol for the base gas and symbols for components as above, but with a plus sign preceding the unlisted component, followed by the nominal composition values, in volume percent, which are separated by a dash.

EXAMPLE 6 For a gas mixture containing 0,05 % of xenon, chemical symbol Xe, in argon:

Classification: ISO 14175 – Z

Designation: ISO 14175 – Z – Ar+Xe – 0,05