

# INFORMATION LEAFLET



## PARTIGAS IDENTIFICATION

### What is Partigas?

Partigas is refined Helium and is used for inflating balloons. Helium is distilled from natural gas wells. Helium is inert in virtually all conditions and is a good conductor of heat and sound.

NEVER inhale Partigas because it displaces the air in your lungs and could lead to asphyxiation or burst lungs. The voice of someone who has inhaled helium temporarily sounds high-pitched. This is because the speed of sound in helium is nearly three times greater than in air.

### Odour

Partigas has no smell. However, when breathing low concentrations of Partigas slight dizziness and a shortage of breath may occur.

### Cylinders

Partigas cylinders are high pressure cylinders and are brown in colour. They come in 3 different sizes as shown below. An inflator must be attached to the cylinder when filling balloons.

### Cylinder filling

Partigas is stored as a gas under pressure (at approximately 200bar at 20°C) in steel or aluminium extruded cylinders. Cylinders are filled by pressure, which means that each cylinder is filled by cubic metre. There is additional capacity in the cylinder to allow for expansion of the gas under increased temperature; for example if the cylinder is left in the sun.

### Cylinder valves

The Partigas valve has a flat seat, which means that two half -turns will open the valve fully. Any more turns will make it difficult to close quickly in an emergency.

## TRANSPORTING PARTIGAS

When transporting Partigas the cylinders should always be kept upright and be secured, preferably behind the passenger seat. Transport in a well ventilated vehicle.

Partigas is stored as a gas in the cylinder. If there is a leak the gas expands and rises to the highest point because it is lighter than air.



In the event of a leak you must evacuate the vehicle and ventilate it immediately.

## STORING PARTIGAS

### At work or home

Partigas cylinders should always be stored upright and secured. Make sure that the area is well ventilated and covered from the elements. DO NOT store your Partigas cylinder in a basement or non ventilated room.

## USING PARTIGAS

### Receiving cylinders

On receipt of a Partigas cylinder you must perform the following checks:

- Check to see that the valves are sealed with an AFROX shrink wrap seal.
- Check that the valve on the cylinder is tightly closed.
- Check that the cylinder is in good condition. (no dents or rust)

If the cylinder is faulty then return it to Afrox or closest Partigas supplier.

### Moving cylinders

To transport large cylinders either use a cylinder trolley or 'churn' the cylinder by tilting the cylinder by 20° and rolling it on the base, using the valve guard to turn the cylinder.

- NEVER roll or drag cylinders.
- NEVER use the valve to move the cylinder.

### Connecting cylinders

Secure the cylinder in an upright position to prevent it from being accidentally knocked over. Remove the AFROX seal. Check that the washer in the inflator is in place and in good condition. The seals do wear and need replacing from time to time.

If you are connecting the cylinder to a manifold or equipment then check that the hose is in good condition and not worn especially around the clamps. Connect the regulator to the valve and be careful not to over tighten. Use the correct tools.

### Opening cylinders

Open the cylinder two half-turns in an anti-clockwise direction. In the event of a leak close the valve (clockwise) and check the washer before reconnecting.

### Checking for leaks

Partigas is not poisonous but does displace oxygen and is therefore an asphyxiant. In the event of a leak immediately close the cylinder valve. Use a soapy water solution (dish-washing liquid and a sponge or brush) to check the valve or inflator. The solution will bubble around any leak. Immediately disconnect the cylinder and move it outside. Open the doors and windows to ventilate the room. Once the cylinder has vented return it to your Partigas supplier.

### Changing cylinders

TREAT ALL YOUR CYLINDERS AS IF THEY WERE FULL.

Close the cylinder valve. Remove the inflator or regulator. Replace the empty cylinder with a full one. Connect the full cylinder as discussed above.

