



ANSI/CGA P-18—2020 STANDARD FOR BULK INERT GAS SYSTEMS

FIFTH EDITION



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Work Item 18-009
Bulk Distribution Equipment and Standards

NOTE—Due to the extensive changes in this document, technical changes from the previous edition are not identified.

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Contents	Page
1 Introduction.....	1
2 Scope	1
3 Definitions.....	2
4 Health hazards and safety considerations	4
4.1 General safety considerations	4
4.2 Properties of gases.....	4
4.3 Storage, handling, and uses of cryogenic inert gases.....	5
4.4 Health hazards	6
5 Site selection	8
5.1 Meeting code setback distances	8
5.2 Supplier and customer responsibilities	10
5.3 Electrical considerations.....	11
6 Developing a suitable site	11
6.1 Equipment layout.....	11
6.2 Foundations and supports	11
6.3 Security of areas.....	12
6.4 Grounding	12
6.5 Site access	12
6.6 Utilities.....	12
7 Equipment selection	13
7.1 Cryogenic fluid storage tanks	13
7.2 Vaporizers	13
7.3 Gas receivers	14
7.4 Reciprocating pumps.....	14
7.5 Pressure regulation devices	15
7.6 Pressure relief devices	15
7.7 Low temperature protection.....	16
7.8 Valves.....	16
7.9 Piping and tubing.....	17
7.10 Vent devices	17
8 Equipment transportation	17
9 Equipment installation	17
9.1 Indoor systems	17
9.2 Outdoor systems	18
9.3 Courtyard locations.....	19
9.4 Temporary systems	19
9.5 Identification	20
9.6 Cryogenic fluid storage tanks	20
9.7 Vaporizers	20
9.8 Gas receivers	20
9.9 Reciprocating pumps.....	21
9.10 Pressure regulation devices	21
9.11 Low temperature protection.....	21
9.12 Valves.....	21
9.13 Piping and tubing.....	21
9.14 Vent devices	22

10	Startup.....	22
10.1	Initial fill.....	22
10.2	Product testing.....	22
10.3	Installation checklist.....	22
10.4	Startup testing	23
10.5	Introduction of product to a customer system.....	23
11	Operation.....	23
11.1	Maintenance	23
11.2	Management system	24
11.3	General safety	24
11.4	Personnel	24
11.5	Shutdown, repair, and startup	24
12	System removal.....	25
12.1	General.....	25
12.2	Receiver removals.....	25
12.3	Tank removals	25
13	References	25

Tables

Table 1—Physical constants of inert gases [13]	5
Table 2—Effect of oxygen concentration on humans [11]	7
Table 3—Minimum separation distance between containers (stationary) or use points and exposures [2]	9
Table 4—Minimum separation distance between containers (portable) or use points and exposures [2]	10

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1 Introduction

This standard contains minimum requirements for locating/siting, selecting equipment, installing, starting up, maintaining, and removing bulk inert gas supply systems.

2 Scope

A bulk inert gas supply system is one that contains greater than 20 000 scf (566 m³) of inert gas. Requirements of this standard are limited to systems operating up to 15 000 psi (103.4 MPa).

Two types of bulk inert gas supply systems are covered in this standard: liquid and gaseous.

A liquid system is one where the inert gas is delivered to the supply system and stored on-site in liquid form. The inert gas is supplied in either liquid or gaseous form to the customer's requirement. When required, pumps are used to increase the gas pressure before it is supplied to the customer. When required, coded vessels are used to store the gas before it is supplied to the customer. The system is a bulk liquid system instead of a bulk gaseous system because the gas is delivered from the supplier to the storage of the system in liquid form.

A gaseous system is one where an inert gas is delivered to the supply system, stored, and is supplied to the customer's requirement in gaseous form.

This standard applies to inert gas supply systems containing any of the following equipment. Not all inert gas systems include all the equipment listed.

Inert gas supply systems include:

- cryogenic storage tank;
- gas storage vessels (receivers);
- vaporizers;
- valves including manual and automatic shutoff valves and check valves;
- pressure control equipment including regulators and control valves;
- piping (pipe and tubing);
- cryogenic pumps;
- snubbers and pulsation dampeners; and
- monitoring and control systems including electrical and instrumentation.

The bulk inert supply system terminates at the source valve where the gas or liquid supply first enters the supply line.

This standard does not apply to carbon dioxide systems. For additional requirements on bulk inert gas systems at health care facilities, see CGA M-1, *Standard for Medical Gas Supply Systems at Health Care Facilities (an American National Standard)*, NFPA 55, *Compressed Gases and Cryogenic Fluids Code*, and NFPA 99, *Health Care Facilities Code* [1, 2, 3].¹ Bulk carbon dioxide system requirements are found in NFPA 55 and CGA G-6.1, *Standard for Insulated Liquid Carbon Dioxide Systems at Consumer Sites* [2, 4].

¹ References are shown by bracketed numbers and are listed in order of appearance in the reference section.