

# MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET (MSDS)

## Tungsten Electrodes

Conforms to OSHA Hazard Communication Standard 29CFR 1910.1200  
Standard Must Be Consulted for Specific Requirements

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### SECTION I – PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION

**Trade Name:** Tungsten Electrodes for Welding  
**Chemical Name/Class:** Tungsten; Element  
**Product Use:** Welding; Metal-working Operations  
**Classification:** AWS A5.12

### SECTION II - HAZARDOUS INGREDIENTS

**Important:** This section covers the materials from which the product is manufactured. The fumes and gases produced during welding with the normal use of this product are covered under Section V. Thorium dioxide is subject to the reporting requirements of Section 313 of Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA) and 40 CFR Part 372.

Designation		Chemical Composition Impurities ≤ 0.1%		Tip Color
ISO 6848	AWS A5.12	Oxide Additive, %	Tungsten, %	
WT20	EWTh-2	ThO <sub>2</sub> : 1.70-2.20	≥ 97.30	Red
WP	EWP	-----	≥ 99.95	Green
WL15	EWLa-1.5	LaO <sub>2</sub> : 1.30-1.70	≥ 97.80	Gold
WL20	EWLa-2	La <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> : 1.80-2.20	≥ 97.30	Blue
WC20	EWCe-2	CeO <sub>2</sub> : 1.80-2.20	≥ 97.30	Gray

\*The term "HAZARDOUS MATERIALS" should be interpreted as a term required and defined in OSHA HAZARD COMMUNICATION STANDARD 29 CFR 1910.1200 however the use of this term does not necessarily imply the existence of any hazard.

### SECTION III - PHYSICAL DATA

Melting Point: Approximately 3400°C  
Boiling Point: Approximately 5900°C  
Solubility in Water: Insoluble  
Specific Gravity (H<sub>2</sub>O=1): Approximately 19.3  
Radioactive Isotope: Th-232

Color: Silver-gray  
Odor: odorless  
Vapor. Press: N/A at 25°C  
Vapor. Density: N/A

### SECTION IV – FIRE AND EXPLOSION HAZARD DATA

Non-Flammable: Welding arc and sparks can ignite combustibles. See Z-49.1 referenced in Section VI.

### SECTION V - REACTIVITY DATA

#### Hazardous Decomposition Products

Welding fumes and gases cannot be classified simply. The composition and quantity of these fumes and gases are dependent upon the metal being welded, the procedures followed and the electrodes used. Workers should be aware that the composition and quantity of fumes and gases to which they may be exposed, are influenced by: coatings which may be present on the metal being welded (such as paint, plating, or galvanizing), the number of welders in operation and the volume of the work area, the quality and amount of ventilation, the position of the welder'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 and degreasing procedure). When the electrode is consumed, the fumes and gas decomposition products generated are different in percent and form from the ingredients listed in Section II. The composition of these fumes and gases are the concerning matter and not the composition of the electrode itself. Decomposition products include those originating from the volatilization, reaction, or oxidation of the ingredients shown in Section II, plus those from the base metal, coating and the other factors noted above. Gaseous reaction products may include carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide. Ozone and nitrogen oxides may be formed by the radiation from the arc. One method of determining the composition and quantity of the fumes and gases to which the workers are exposed is to take an air sample from inside the welder's helmet while worn or within the worker's breathing zone. See ANSI/AWS F1.1 publication available from the American Welding Society, 8669 NW 36 Street #130, Miami, Florida 33166.

### SECTION VI – HEALTH HAZARD DATA

Occupational Safety and Health Administration 29 CFR 1910.1000 Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL). American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) Threshold Limit Value (TLV[R]).

INGREDIENT	CAS No.	OSHA PEL	ACGIH TWA	ACGIH STEL
Tungsten (W)	7440-33-7	-	5 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	10 mg/m <sup>3</sup>
Thorium Dioxide	1314-20-1	-	-	-
Cerium Dioxide	1345-13-7	-	-	-
Lanthanum Dioxide	1312-81-8	-	-	-

**Threshold Limit Value:** The ACGIH recommended general limit for welding fume NOC (Not otherwise classified) is 5 mg/m<sup>3</sup> ACGIH 1985 preface states: "The TLC-TWA should be used as guides in the control of health hazards and should not be used as fine lines between safe and dangerous concentrations." See section V for specific fume constituents, which may modify this TLV.

### **Common Entry Is by Inhalation.**

**Effects of Overexposure:** Inhalation of welding fumes and gases can be dangerous to your health. Short-term (acute) overexposure to welding fumes may result in discomfort such as dizziness, nausea, or dryness or irritation of nose, throat, or eyes. Although the inhalation of Tungsten has the potential for causing transient or permanent lung damage, it is generally considered to exhibit a low degree of toxicity. Thorium is a naturally occurring radioactive element. Its primary hazard lies in inhalation of dust/fumes. Normal handling of these electrodes is not expected to result in any significant radiation exposure. Considerable experience in refining and use of thorium has not revealed any adverse effects from industrial exposure. Long-term (chronic) over-exposure to welding fumes can lead to siderosis (iron deposits in lung) and is believed to affect pulmonary function. Arc Rays can injure eyes and burn skin. Electric shock can kill. See Section VIII.

**Emergency and First Aid Procedures:** Call for medical assistance. Use first aid procedures recommended by the American Red Cross. If breathing is difficult - give oxygen. If not breathing-use CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation).

**Carcinogenicity:** Thorium dioxide has been identified as a carcinogen by NTP, IARC and others. Evidence for its ability to cause cancer has come solely from its internal medical use.

## **SECTION VII - HANDLING AND STORAGE**

### **Work Practices and Hygiene Practices**

Routinely during the workday and after the end of the work shift, hands and other exposed skin areas should be thoroughly washed. Do not eat or drink without washing during the use of these products. Use ventilation and other engineering controls to minimize potential exposure to fumes during welding operations or dust or powder from grinding of the electrode tips. Follow good house keeping practices to ensure that powder and dust from the grinding operations do not accumulate, which may be flammable and can pose a special health hazards if from Thorium Oxide containing electrodes.

Tungsten Electrodes containing Thorium Oxide - are generally safe to handle during use under most all normal conditions and environments. Special precautions **MUST** be taken during the grinding or machining of the tips of the electrodes that contain Thorium Oxide to avoid the generation of powder or dust and subsequent inhalation and ingestion of dust or powder from these operations. Any dust or powder generated during these operations may be considered as "Source Material" as defined by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and therefore be subject to the requirements of 10 CFR, Parts 20 and 40.

Routine wet mopping or vacuuming using an explosion proof vacuum, fitted with a HEPA filter, should be considered to reduce the accumulation of dust or powder. Dust or powder should not be blown off the grinding equipment using compressed air. Grinding dust and powder should be collected and dispose of properly in an environmentally acceptable manner according to Federal, State and Local regulations.

**Storage and Handling Practices:** All employees who handle these products should be trained to handle them safely. Avoid breathing the dust and powder generated during grinding or machining of the electrode tips. Open packages and containers of these products slowly on a stable surface. Packages and containers of these products must be properly labeled.

## **SECTION VIII – EXPOSURE CONTROLS / PERSONAL PROTECTION**

Read and understand the manufacturer's instructions and precautionary label on this product. See American Standard Z49.1 Safety in Welding and Cutting, published by the AMERICAN WELDING SOCIETY, 8669 NW 36 Street #130, Miami, Florida 33166 and OSHA Publication 2206 (29 CFR 1910), U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington D.C. 20402 for more details on the following topics.

**Ventilation:** Use plenty of ventilation and/or local exhaust at the arc, to keep the fumes and gases below the threshold limit value within the worker's breathing zone and the general work area. Welders should be advised to keep their head out of the fumes.

**Respiratory Protection:** Use respirable fume respirator or air supplied respirator when welding in a confined space or general work area where local exhaust and/or ventilation does not keep exposure below the threshold limit value.

**Eye Protection:** Wear a helmet or face shield with a filter lens shade number 12-14 or darker. Shield other workers by providing screens and flash goggles.

**Protective Clothing:** Wear approved head, hand and body protection, which help to prevent injury from radiation, sparks and electrical shock. See ANSI Z-49.1. This would include wearing welder's gloves and a protective face shield and may include arm protectors, apron, hats, shoulder protection, as well as dark substantial clothing. Welders should be trained not to allow electrically live parts to contract the skin or wet clothing and gloves. The welders should insulate themselves from the work and ground.

**Waste Disposal Method:** Discard any product, residue, disposal container, or liner in an environmentally acceptable manner approved by Federal, State and Local regulations.

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