



## **Airgas Southwest Albuquerque Facility Receives ISO 9001:2008 Certification**

**RADNOR, PA AND ALBUQUERQUE, NM - February 7, 2011** - Airgas, Inc. (NYSE: ARG), today announced that its specialty gases facility in Albuquerque, NM, operated by Airgas Southwest and a regional company of Airgas, has been awarded the ISO 9001:2008 certification for quality management systems by Quality Systems Registrars, Inc. (QSR), an accredited third-party registrar. The designation indicates the facility meets all of the requirements of ISO 9001:2008 clause 4.1 standard. Specifically, it requires an organization to "establish, document, implement, and maintain a quality management system and continually improve its effectiveness in accordance with the requirements of this International Standard."

Airgas has been registered to the ISO 9001 standard since April 2002 and currently has 55 specialty gas producing facilities registered. Each facility operates under the same quality system and standard operating procedures, and is audited against these standards annually. To ensure its facilities meet these requirements, Airgas developed its own Quality System Policy, which works to continually improve processes and provide customers with the highest product purity, consistency and service.

"We are proud to have received this certification from QSR in recognition of Airgas Southwest's Albuquerque specialty gases facility," said Brent Sparks, President of Airgas Southwest. "The certification reflects Airgas' dedication to consistently producing products that both meet regulatory requirements and enhance customer satisfaction."

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies from more than 140 countries, one from each country. Independent third-party registrars, like QSR, conduct audits and grant certifications based on the ISO 9000 series standards. QSR is accredited by RAB (United States) and RvA (Dutch).

Airgas Southwest provides cylinder gases, bulk gases, specialty gases, name brand and private label hardgoods, tools, rental equipment, refrigerants and safety equipment to customers in Texas, New Mexico, southern Louisiana and Mexico.

### **About Airgas, Inc.**

Airgas, Inc. (NYSE: ARG), through its subsidiaries, is the largest U.S. distributor of industrial, medical, and specialty gases, and hardgoods, such as welding equipment and supplies. Airgas is also one of the largest U.S. distributors of safety products, the largest U.S. producer of nitrous oxide and dry ice, the largest liquid carbon dioxide producer in the Southeast, and a leading distributor of process chemicals, refrigerants, and ammonia products. More than 14,000 employees work in approximately 1,100 locations, including branches, retail stores, gas fill plants, specialty gas labs, production facilities and distribution centers. Airgas also distributes its products and services through eBusiness, catalog and telesales channels. Its national scale and strong local presence offer a competitive edge to its diversified customer base. For more information, please visit [www.airgas.com](http://www.airgas.com).

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