



Airgas Unveils Redesigned Analytical Regulators at PITTCON 2011

Built-in check valve prevents air and contaminants from entering gas stream

RADNOR, PA - March 14, 2011 - Airgas, Inc. (NYSE: ARG), the largest U.S. distributor of specialty gases and equipment, today introduced a redesign of its popular analytical series of specialty gas regulators at the Pittsburgh Conference on Analytical Chemistry and Applied Spectroscopy (PITTCON) in Atlanta, Ga. Designed especially for gas chromatography, the regulators now have an integrated check valve in the cylinder connection to prevent air and contaminants from entering the gas stream when gas cylinders are changed.

"Gas stream contaminants are one of the main causes of inconsistent analytical results and shortened column life in gas chromatography applications," said Jim Muller, senior vice president for Specialty Gases and Life Sciences at Airgas. "We're continually looking for more effective and more efficient ways to help our customers prevent contaminants from entering the gas stream. When you're changing out cylinders, these are the regulators to have."

According to Frank Kandl, Airgas product manager - specialty gas equipment, the newly redesigned, regulators are available in single-stage and two-stage models made from solid bar stock.

"Regulators machined from brass bar stock have minimal internal volume, which help to eliminate the large cavities and pockets typical of forged-body that can trap impurities and create inconsistencies in analytical results," Kandl explained. "Our regulators also have a needle valve built into the regulator body to reduce the gas path and potential for allowing contaminants to remain in the regulator body and emit at an uncontrolled time, creating unexplained inconsistencies."

Kandl said that, in addition to a needle valve, the redesigned regulators are available with a packless diaphragm. He added that the regulators also feature encapsulated filter assemblies to protect the valve seat from contamination, extend the regulator's service life, and reduce the velocity of the gas when opening high-pressure cylinder valves, which can cause regulator failures.

More information on the new Airgas regulators for gas chromatography is available during PITTCON in Atlanta at the Airgas exhibit (number 1627), March 14 - 18 or by calling 800-939-5711, ext. 110. Information can also be obtained by visiting www.airgasSGcatalog.com. Registered PITTCON attendees who visit the Airgas exhibit will be entered in a drawing for an Apple® iPad.

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.

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