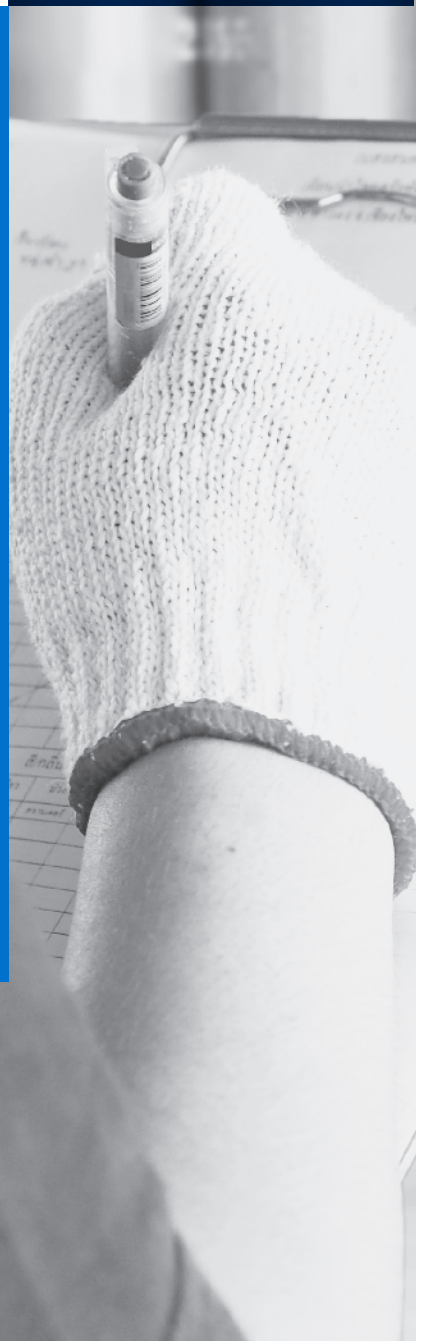




CGA P-34 — 2022

3RD EDITION

**SAFE HANDLING OF
OZONE-CONTAINING
MIXTURES INCLUDING
THE INSTALLATION
AND OPERATION OF
OZONE-GENERATING
EQUIPMENT**



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Atmospheric Gases and Equipment Committee

NOTE—Technical changes from the previous edition are underlined.

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1 Introduction

This publication was developed to satisfy the demand for information concerning the safe generation and handling of ozone-containing gas mixtures. Assistance was provided by the International Ozone Association in preparation of this document.

2 Scope

This publication presents general information regarding the characteristics of ozone, the means by which it can be handled safely, and the safe installation and operation of ozone-generating equipment. Requests for specialized, technical information regarding specific types of ozone-generating equipment should be directed to the manufacturers of equipment used to produce ozone gas.

This publication is intended primarily for users of ozone and manufacturers of equipment used to produce ozone. It is limited to dry (less than 100 ppm moisture) oxygen-ozone, air-ozone mixtures at pressures up to 2 atm (gauge), and up to 16 weight percent ozone.

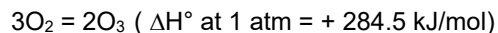
This publication does not address ozone generator power supply units (PSUs). Recommendations regarding operations, maintenance, and safeguards for PSUs can be obtained from the ozone generator manufacturer.

This publication also does not address specific operating and maintenance specifications for ozone generators, including the variety of coolants used, freeze protection, corrosion aspects, etc. This information is critical to the safe operation of ozone generators and shall be obtained from the ozone generator manufacturer due to the varying requirements for different systems.

3 What is ozone?

3.1 Physical and chemical properties

Ozone is an unstable molecule produced from elemental oxygen, often called an allotropic (the existence, especially in the solid state, of two or more crystalline or molecular structural forms of an element) form of oxygen. The overall reaction for ozone formation is described by an endothermic reaction:



Since ozone is unstable, it must be generated at the point of application. The ozone molecule having a molecular weight of 48 is made of 3 oxygen atoms bound by equal oxygen-oxygen bonds at an obtuse angle of 116 degrees 49 minutes. This structure is inherently unstable and is the reason for ozone's powerful oxidizing ability.

Some physical properties of ozone are listed in Table 1. The toxicity of ozone gas and its exposure limits are provided in Section 4.

As a gas, ozone is 1.7 times heavier than air. At ordinary temperatures and at high concentrations, ozone is a bluish gas, but at concentrations at which it is generated for normal use, this color is not noticeable.

At -169°F (-112°C), ozone condenses into a dark blue liquid that explodes easily. Concentrated oxygen/ozone mixtures (above approximately 20% ozone) can easily explode, either in the liquid or vapor state. Such explosions can be initiated by small amounts of catalysts, organic matter, shocks, or sudden changes in temperature or pressure.

Under the conditions where ozone is generated commercially, concentrations of ozone in oxygen above 20 weight percent do not occur. Manufacturers of ozone-generating equipment are not aware of any incidents involving explosive decomposition of ozone-oxygen or air-ozone mixtures in well-designed and properly maintained generators. If any incidents in equipment downstream from ozone generators have occurred, the