

# **Instructions for use of Anaesthetic Gases**

DNR 1-1111/2021

Valid from 2021-12-07

**NOTE:** This is a translation of the official version (Anvisningar för användning av anestesigas). The Swedish version is the official document. In the event of any discrepancy between the versions, the Swedish version constitutes the official decision and the Swedish wording will prevail.



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<b>Ref.no.nummer:</b> 1-1111/2021	<b>Ref. no previous version:</b>	<b>Date of decision:</b> 2021-12-07	<b>Period of validity:</b> Valid until further notice from 2021-12-07
<b>Decided by:</b> Facilities director		<b>Document category:</b> Instructions	
<b>Handled by office/unit:</b> Property and Facilities office; Safety and security unit		<b>Prepared together with:</b> Affected activities, KI's collaboration committee (Samverkansråd) and KI's occupational health care (Avonova)	
<b>Revised concerning:</b>			

## Introduction

The following instruction revises and replaces previous document Användning av anestesigaser vid djurexperimentell verksamhet. The basis for this instruction is AML 1977: 1160 in its entirety and applicable regulations. Emphasis is placed on the Swedish Work Environment Authority's regulations Workplace design AFS 2020: 1, Chemical Hazards in the Working Environment AFS 2011: 19 and Anaesthetic gases AFS 2001: 7. The instruction also refers to the regulation Occupational exposure limits AFS 2018: 1.

## Purpose

The purpose of this instruction is primarily to clarify that the Swedish Work Environment Authority's regulations apply to all activities where anaesthetic gases are used, and secondarily to prevent the risks that may be associated with the use of anaesthetic gas. Specific handling and protection instructions with more detailed information shall be available at each workplace.

## Terms and definitions

### Anaesthetic gases

For the purpose of the instruction, anaesthetic gas is defined as a medical product administered in gaseous form through the respiratory tract for the purpose of achieving anaesthesia or pain relief.

### Excess extractor

An exhaust removing anaesthetic gases from the excess valve or exhalation valve of the anaesthetic gas equipment.

### Spot extractor

An exhaust removing anaesthetic gas at or near their source.

## During work with anaesthetic gas

it's required, that

- the responsible manager shall ensure that everyone who works with anaesthetic gas or is at risk of being exposed to anaesthetic gas has sufficient knowledge of the risks of the work and how these risks are to be prevented
- the responsible manager shall ensure that a documented risk assessment has been carried out before working with anaesthetic gases and most importantly assesses whether the content of anaesthetic gas is acceptable in relation to the occupational exposure limit
- the responsible manager shall ensure that exposure measurement is carried out in accordance with AFS 2018: 1 if it is not possible in any other way to assess how the exposure to anaesthetic gas in air relates to the occupational exposure limit value. If measurements or other data show that any limit value is exceeded, measures need to be taken to reduce the exposure in accordance with the order of priority in sections 15 and 16 of AFS 2011: 19.

- the responsible manager shall ensure that written handling and protection instructions are available at the workplace and are followed
- air pollution of anaesthetic gas must be prevented, and residues of anaesthetics must be disposed of safely.

**During work with anaesthetic gas equipment shall**

- excess extraction with sufficient capacity and continuous flow control be available
- the equipment be controlled before being taken into operation and then undergo a technical inspection at least every twelve months and the results of the inspection be documented
- a tightness check be performed before each use and adjusted if necessary and results of tightness check and any measures be documented
- the person performing inspection, adjustment and control of the equipment have sufficient knowledge and access to the necessary equipment.

**During work with central distribution of nitrous oxide shall**

- the pressure be relieved before work is carried out in such a way that exposure to the gas is prevented
- gas outlets for nitrous oxide be checked for leaks regularly and in connection with replacement of tubing, but at least every twelve months, and the results of the check must be documented.

**During work with liquid anaesthetic agents shall**

- the work be carried out so that the occurrence and spread of air contaminants is prevented (applies to anaesthetic agents which in gaseous form are intended for inhalation)
- emptying / filling of vaporisers that cannot take place in a closed system be done under a fume cupboard or in conjunction with a spot extractor
- opened bottles with anaesthetic agents that are not a part of a closed system be stored in a specific delimited ventilated space / cabinet
- residues of liquid anaesthetic agents be handled in accordance with KI's rules for laboratory waste.

**During work with an anaesthetic mask or other work that involves exposure to anaesthetic gas shall**

- a spot extractor be installed where there is a risk that the occupational exposure limit value for the current anaesthetic gas is exceeded due to leakage
- the extraction part of the spot extractor be placed a maximum of 15 cm from the source of exposure
- the capacity of the spot extractor be controlled during installation and following changes to the installation and the results of the control be documented
- any malfunction of the spot extractor during operation be monitored by a control system.

**Appendix 1** Checklist for work with anaesthetic gases developed in collaboration with Avonova (only in Swedish and therefore only included in the Swedish version).