

November 29, 2018

Announcing the Revision of Helium Prices

Air Liquide Japan Ltd. (headquarters: Minato-ku, Tokyo; President and CEO: Shiro Yahara) will be revising the retail price of helium, as outlined below.

Helium is a scarce resource that is sourced, separated and refined from natural gas fields overseas. In Japan, we rely almost solely on imported helium from the United States and the Middle East (mainly Qatar).

In recent years, demand for helium has risen due to the significant increase of helium used in MRIs in the medical field, and in leak tests carried out while manufacturing optical fibers and semiconductors, as well as in space development and new industries (such as hydrogen tanks and accumulators for FCV). The industrialization of China is another factor in the growing demand.

Meanwhile, with the US making calculated efforts to reduce the number of suppliers, in addition to the drop in helium supply due to unexpected problems, and the rapid increase of helium use in Asia (including China), the balance of supply and demand has rapidly destabilized from the second half of 2018, and the situation is expected to become increasingly dire in the coming years.

Air Liquide will make efforts to secure our raw helium quota in order to prioritize ensuring a stable gas supply. To this end, we regret to inform you that we must revise our helium price as of shipments on January 1, 2019.

This is a revision that is necessary to ensure that we can continue to provide a steady supply of high-quality products and services to our customers. We thank you for your understanding.

1. Affected product: Helium (including mixed gases)
2. Timing of revision: From January 1, 2019
3. Extent of markup: We will contact customers individually according to the type and format of the business transaction.

For any inquiries, please contact

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Air Liquide

Air Liquide Japan has been in operation in Japan since 1907. Our 2,000 employees serve over 35,000 customers in the industry sector including electronics, as well as patients receiving home health care. In recent years, Air Liquide has expanded business activities in the healthcare sector. In terms of innovation development, the company has a Research and Technology Center in Tsukuba, and a Plant Engineering Center in Kobe, making Japan a technology and research base for Air Liquide in Asia and beyond.

About Air Liquide A world leader in gases, technologies and services for Industry and Health, Air Liquide is present in 80 countries with approximately 65,000 employees and serves more than 3.5 million customers and patients. Oxygen, nitrogen and hydrogen are essential small molecules for life, matter and energy. They embody Air Liquide's scientific territory and have been at the core of the company's activities since its creation in 1902. Air Liquide's ambition is to lead its industry, deliver long term performance, contribute to sustainability, and to take responsibility for its actions. The company's customer-centric transformation strategy aims at profitable growth over the long term. It relies on operational excellence, selective investments, open innovation and a network organization implemented by the Group worldwide. Through the commitment and inventiveness of its people, Air Liquide leverages energy and environment transition, changes in healthcare and digitization, and delivers greater value to all its stakeholders. Air Liquide's revenue amounted to €20.3 billion in 2017 and its solutions that protect life and the environment represented more than 40% of sales. Air Liquide is listed on the Euronext Paris stock exchange (compartment A) and belongs to the CAC 40, EURO STOXX 50 and FTSE4Good indexes.