

# Purging and Inerting

Nitrogen is the most widely used gas for purging and inerting operations, due to its cost effectiveness, availability, and non-hazardous effects. Praxair Services, Inc. uses nitrogen to safely purge potentially explosive hydrocarbon and air mixtures from vessels, transfer lines and equipment, leaving an inert atmosphere for shutdown and start up activities.

Whether performing a low pressure sweep or pressure purge cycles with our mobile nitrogen pumping units, our engineering solutions and highly experienced technicians will identify an efficient method to purge your system and minimize the downtime associated with such work.

## Specifications

When using the low pressure sweep method for purging, nitrogen is passed continuously into the system at one entry point, while the air or gas being purged exits from another point. The system is normally purged to and remains at atmosphere pressure. Nitrogen performs its function by displacing or diluting the contents, leaving an inert environment.

If your system is designed to withstand elevated pressure, purging may also be achieved by pressurizing with one or several pressurization cycles. When using high pressure for purging, nitrogen is introduced in high pressure cycles, allowing a mixture of nitrogen and the contents.

## Applications

Nitrogen can be used to purge essentially any vessel or transfer line of potentially explosive hydrocarbon and air mixtures.

Any remaining flammable gas can be pushed with nitrogen to a flare to burn off excess hydrocarbon.



- Nitrogen purging is cost-effective and environmentally safe.
- Our mobile nitrogen pumping units can perform jobs typically beyond the scope of plant nitrogen supplies including:
  - Pressures ranging from atmospheric to 10,000 psig for optimum pressure purge cycles.
  - Higher flow rates than plant supplied nitrogen, up to 540,000scf/h, for accelerated inerting.
  - Equipment mobility allows for better access throughout facilities.

For more information, call 1-800-PRAXAIR or visit us online at [www.praxair.com/industrialservices](http://www.praxair.com/industrialservices)