Air Quality Guide



The Importance of Air Quality



Caustic gases such as sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides and chlorine compounds





The Results of Contaminated Compressed Air

The problems created by contaminated compressed air in your system can range from annoyance to wreaking havoc on your equipment and your end products.

- · Premature wearing and scoring of surfaces
- Rust and corrosion in tools, piping and equipment
- Damaged instruments
- Spoiled paint surfaces
- Increased scrap rate
- Unsafe or unpleasant work environment

ISO 8573-1 Air Quality Classes

Maintaining air quality is so important that the International Standards Organisation (ISO) developed six compressed air quality classes, as defined by ISO 8573-1. To determine which industry classification you require, ask yourself these simple questions:

- Does compressed air quality affect my production process and the quality of my end products?
- Will poor compressed air quality decrease my productivity, cost savings and product quality standards?
- What internal and external ambient conditions affect the quality of my compressed air produced by my system?

General Manufacturing Assembly Conveying Air Tool Use

Removing Particulate Contamination



Contaminants Can Destroy a Compressed Air System

Think of it as a mini dust storm at 7 bar(g). The particulates scattered almost invisibly throughout the ambient air become a concentrated force for damage and destruction of your air-operated tools, equipment and instruments.

 Systems are damaged and products are spoiled

- Scoring and uneven wear patterns ruin tools and instruments
- Volatile, hazardous compounds are produced
- Production shuts down, productivity and quality suffer



Compressed Air Quality ISO 8573-1:2001

Quality Class	Max Nu 0.1 – 0.5 micron	SOLIDS Imber of Particles 0.5 – 1 micron	Per m³ 1 – 5 micron	WATER Pressure Dew Point °C	OIL & OIL VAPOUR	Quality Class
0	As specified by the end-user or manufacturer, and more stringent than Class 1				0	
1	100	1	0	-70	0.01	1
2	100,000	1000	10	-40	0.1	2
3	N/A	10,000	500	-20	1	3
4	N/A	N/A	1,000	3	5	4
5	N/A	N/A	20,000	7	N/A	5
6	N/A	N/A	N/A	10	N/A	6

Dual Filters Eliminate Dirt and Problems

Eliminating the "sandblast" effect of particulates in your compressed air stream gets rid of:

- Premature wear
- Scored surfaces
- Clogged orifices
- Ruined finishes and instruments

General Manufacturing Assembly Conveying Air Tool Use

Removing Moisture





Compressed Air Quality ISO 8573-1:2001

Quality	Max N	SOLIDS umber of Particles	Per m ³	WATER Pressure Dew Point	OIL & OIL VAPOUR	Quality
Class	0.1 – 0.5 micron	0.5 – 1 micron	1 – 5 micron	°C	mg/m³	Class
0	As specifi	ed by the end-use	er or manufacturer, a	and more stringent than	Class 1	0
1	100	1	0	-70	0.01	1
2	100,000	1000	10	-40	0.1	2
3	N/A	10,000	500	-20	1	3
4	N/A	N/A	1,000	3	5	4
5	N/A	N/A	20,000	7	N/A	5
6	N/A	N/A	N/A	10	N/A	6

Why Is Relative Humidity Important?

Moisture Contamination Has The Following Effects:-

- Rust and corrosion in the air system piping
- Inadequate air tool lubrication
- · Damage to labelling, packaging and the finished goods
- Productivity losses throughout your operation

Refrigerated air dryers are capable of maintaining less than 50% relative humidity in most industrial plant ambient environments.

Processes that require ultra-dry air (ISO Class 1, 2 or 3) will need an advanced solution using non-refrigerated dryer technology.

General Manufacturing Assembly Conveying Air Tool Use

Removing Oil



Oil in Compressed Air Affects Products and the Work Environment

Oil, unburned hydrocarbons and compressor coolant become highly concentrated during compression.

- These contaminants enter the air flow as entrained droplets and will pass through the compressed air system into the production process unless they are removed.
- The built-in air/oil separator on all rotary screw air compressors will remove a portion of the oil, but this is not sufficient for most applications.
- Oil contamination will cause batch spoilage, poor quality in finished goods, unwanted colouring in finished goods and a messy or hazardous work environment.



Compressed Air Quality ISO 8573-1:2001

Quality	SOLIDS Max Number of Particles Per m ³			WATER Pressure Dew Point	OIL & OIL VAPOUR	Quality
Class	0.1 – 0.5 micron	0.5 – 1 micron	1 – 5 micron	°C	mg/m³	Class
0	As specifi	ed by the end-use	er or manufacturer,	and more stringent than	Class 1	0
1	100	1	0	-70	0.01	1
2	100,000	1000	10	-40	0.1	2
3	N/A	10,000	500	-20	1	3
4	N/A	N/A	1,000	3	5	4
5	N/A	N/A	20,000	7	N/A	5
6	N/A	N/A	N/A	10	N/A	6

Proper Filtration Removes Unwanted Oil from the Air Stream

Removing oil from the compressed air stream provides some real benefits.

- Longer air tool life
- Ensures high quality of finished goods
- No unwanted odours
- Safer workplace

Totally oil-free compressed air can only be achieved by installing an oil-free air compressor. However, particulate filtration and moisture removal are still necessary.

General Manufacturing Assembly Conveying Air Tool Use

Ingersoll Rand Industry Classifications

Class	Description	Applications	
IN1 Instrument Grade Air: ISO Class 2.1.1	Efficient removal of solid particulates and oil. ISO Class 1 Pressure Dewpoint will be maintained.	Instrumentation, process, oil and gas, chemical, electronics.	
IN1 Odour-Free Instrument Grade Air: ISO Class 2.1.1 odour free	Efficient removal of solid particulates and oil, and oil vapour. ISO Class 1 Pressure Dewpoint will be maintained.	Pharmaceutical, food and beverage, clean rooms.	
IN2 Instrument Grade Air: ISO Class 2.2.1	Efficient removal of solid particulates and oil. ISO Class 2 Pressure Dewpoint will be maintained.	Instrumentation, process, oil and gas, chemical, electronics.	
IN2 Odour Free Instrument Grade Air: ISO Class 2.2.1 odour free	Efficient removal of solid particulates and oil, and oil vapour. ISO Class 2 Pressure Dewpoint will be maintained.	Pharmaceutical, food and beverage, clean rooms.	
IG4 Industrial Grade Air: ISO Class 2.4.1	Efficient removal of solid particulates and oil. ISO Class 4 Pressure Dewpoint or a 30% (or less) Relative Humidity (RH) will be maintained.	General manufacturing, metal stamping, air tool use, forging, assembly, painting and finishing.	
IG4 Odour Free Industrial Grade Air: ISO 2.4.1 odour free	Efficient removal of solid particulates and oil, and oil vapour. ISO Class 4 Pressure Dewpoint or a 30% (or less) Relative Humidity (RH) will be maintained.	Food and beverage, raw material mixing.	
IG6 Industrial Grade Air: ISO 2.6.1	Efficient removal of solid particulates and oil. ISO Class 6 Pressure Dewpoint or a 50% (or less) Relative Humidity (RH) will be maintained.	Sand blasting, home use, construction.	

Symptom ... diagnosis ... prescription

Ingersoll Rand can improve the health of your air system

A doctor wouldn't write a prescription without first making a diagnosis. Similarly, in terms of compressed air, fixing a troublesome system without first diagnosing the true problem is a hit or miss proposition based on guesswork. This can lead to production stoppages, extended downtime, and even product spoilage. Ingersoll Rand eliminates the guesswork by providing proven air system auditing services that not only ensure air system efficiency, but reduce operating costs to improve bottom lines.

Using an innovative tool — known as Intellisurvey — we non-intrusively monitor a compressed air system to determine the root causes of symptoms. With Intellisurvey, our experts analyse the many components of an air system, as well as flow, pressure, supply utilisation, and power costs, to determine an optimised system that generates improvements in repeatability, efficiency, and plant productivity.



AirCare Advantage

We understand that uptime is critical to your operation. That's why we offer AirCare Advantage — a responsive, flexible contract maintenance program custom-designed to provide factory-authorised scheduled maintenance that ensures increased system reliability. AirCare Advantage helps eliminate unscheduled downtime and relieves you of costly investments in monitoring equipment and ongoing training. The program also provides a thorough knowledge of compressor technology.









Ingersoll Rand Industrial Technologies provides products, services and solutions to enhance the efficiency and productivity of our commercial, industrial and process customers. Our innovative products include air compressors, air systems components, tools, pumps, material and fluid handling systems and microturbines.

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