

I. General**1. Conclusion of contract, Contractual Language**

1.1. All supplies by MAT shall be exclusively governed by the German version of following General Terms and Conditions (GTC). Deviations from them as well as any supplementary agreements with the customer shall only be valid if confirmed in writing by MAT. Declarations made to MAT must be in writing (also by fax) to be legally binding. Upon placement of an order with MAT, however latest upon acceptance of our delivery, our GTC shall be deemed accepted by the customer.

The prevailing language for the contractual relationship with the customer is German. This translation of our GTC into the English language, in addition to the German language (www.messer.at), is merely done for Customer's convenience (I.7).

1.2. Terms and Conditions of the customer will not be accepted, unless otherwise expressly agreed in writing. No special objection to the GTC of the customer by MAT is required.

1.3. Verbal orders and agreements as well as verbal ancillary agreements and assurances must be confirmed in writing by MAT to be valid and binding.

1.4. Special conditions granted to the customer shall only apply if the customer duly fulfils his contractual obligations. If the customer fails to fulfil them, MAT shall be entitled to cancel the special agreements with immediate effect and to claim retrospective payment of additional amounts.

1.5. If goods are ordered electronically, we will confirm the receipt of the customer's order. However, the confirmation of receipt does not constitute a binding acceptance of the order.

1.6. If individual provisions of these Terms and Conditions are invalid, the validity of the remaining provisions and the contracts concluded on their basis shall not be affected.

1.7. Where reference in these Terms and Conditions is made to the price list, it shall mean the price list as posted by MAT and applicable on the date of delivery.

2. Prices, terms of payment, reservation of title

2.1. Our prices are net prices ex works and exclude the statutory VAT. If no price is indicated in individual cases, the price shall be calculated pursuant to the current price list (1.7). In the case of 'ex-warehouse' deliveries, the applicable warehouse surcharge will be charged. The gases including their containers will be shipped ex works or ex warehouse (= point of delivery) at the customer's cost and risk; likewise, empties will be shipped to the point of delivery at the customer's cost and risk.

2.2. The purchase price shall become payable without deduction immediately upon delivery of the goods or services, unless special terms of payment have been agreed upon in individual cases. Without prejudice to a term for payment granted, MAT shall be entitled to perform all deliveries still outstanding only in return for immediate cash payment if the customer defaults in payment of any amounts due or MAT becomes aware of circumstances which suggest that the customer's financial situation has materially deteriorated after conclusion of the contract. In addition, the terms of payment set out in the price list (1.7), and/or, in the case of a special agreement on the invoice, shall apply.

2.3. If the customer defaults in payment of any indebtedness to MAT when due, default interest of 10% p.a. or higher statutory default interest will be charged. In addition, the customer shall reimburse MAT for any reminder fees and collection costs incurred in so far as they are necessary for bringing appropriate legal action, including -for the purposes of Sect. 1333 ABGB -in particular the costs of reminders as set according to § 458 UGB and the costs of a reminder drawn up by a lawyer entrusted with the collection of the outstanding amount pursuant to the Independent Fee Guidelines (Autonomie Honorar Kriterien) (AHK 2005 or similar fee regulations). MAT reserves further rights and claims. If payment by instalments has been agreed, MAT shall be entitled to demand immediate payment of the entire debt outstanding (loss of right to pay by instalments) if the customer fails to pay instalments or ancillary claims in time.

2.4. The customer may set off his claims against claims MAT has against the customer only if these counterclaims have been accepted in writing by MAT or if they have been established by a court judgement.

2.5. The gases supplied by MAT and any accessories sold with them shall remain the property of MAT until the purchase price and all ancillary claims have been fully paid. The gas cylinder in which the gases are supplied shall always remain the property of MAT.

2.6. The customer agrees to pay MAT a respective fee should he request copies of invoices and/or advice notes. Exempt from this payment is the use of the Online Portal.

3. Delivery

3.1. Stated delivery periods are approximate and not binding, unless they have been expressly agreed upon as having binding force. Partial deliveries shall be permissible.

3.2. If delivery/performance by MAT (or its sub-suppliers) is delayed for reasons not attributable to MAT, and in the event of force majeure and other unforeseeable events that cannot be avoided by reasonable measures, such as strikes, breakdowns, disruption to traffic and acts of government authorities, the obligations of delivery and acceptance shall be suspended for the time and to the extent the cause of noncompliance continues and the delivery period shall be extended accordingly. Where such delays last for more than 3 months, the customer and MAT shall be entitled to withdraw from the contract.

3.3. If MAT has committed itself to adhere to a specific deadline and failed to comply, the customer may only withdraw from the contract if it has granted MAT a grace period of at least 14 days in writing and that period has expired with no action having been taken by MAT. The customer shall not be entitled to claim damages for non-performance or default if the ensuing damage has not been caused intentionally or gross negligently by MAT and/or an point of delivery. Compensation for lost profit and other purely financial losses is not being granted.

4. Warranty

4.1. Drawings, illustrations, measures and weights are only approximate, unless they have been expressly designated as binding. Production-related deviations must be accepted by the customer if the underlying template has been approved or the deviations are not significant.

4.2. The customer shall notify us in writing of any defects specifying them immediately upon receipt of delivery; hidden defects shall be notified to the appropriate point of delivery immediately after they have been identified; otherwise, the goods shall be deemed accepted and free from defects. In that case, the customer shall not be entitled to pursue any claims, including the claim to avoid the contract on account of mistake. In the event of defective deliveries in gas cylinders and/or in the event of faulty gas cylinders, the gas cylinders concerned shall be marked by a tag to be affixed to the gas cylinder valve below the cap specifying the exact address of the customer and the reason for the complaint and returned immediately in an unchanged condition to the point of delivery for inspection by MAT. Gas cylinders appearing to be defective must not be used. Complaints raised in other ways cannot be taken into account for operational reasons.

4.3. If gas supplied is defective or if the gas supplied deviates from that ordered in terms of type or quantity, MAT will at the customer's choice -either provide for its replacement or credit the customer's account.

4.4. The warranty period shall be 6 months from the time of delivery. The right to charge MAT retrospectively for damage pursuant to Sect. 933b (1) ABGB shall expire six months after delivery by MAT, after which MAT shall cease to be liable under any duty to provide compensation retrospectively. Complaints shall not entitle the customer to withhold the entire, but only half of, the purchase price for the defective delivery but only until the defective delivery has been replaced.

5. Liability

5.1. Any liability of MAT for property damage and pecuniary losses of the customer, no matter whether direct or indirect damage, lost profit, damage resulting from the defect itself or consequential damage, are excluded in cases of minor negligence. This exclusion of liability also applies to MAT staff, legal and other representatives. It shall not apply to personal injuries and in the event of any liability under the PHG (Produkthaftpflichtgesetz -Product Liability Act). Any claims for damages customers or third parties may raise under the PHG against MAT shall be excluded, unless the party claiming compensation for such damages proves that the defect was caused by MAT acting at least grossly negligent.

5.2. In case of gross negligence, MAT shall be liable for property damage and financial losses incurred by the customer only in so far as gross damage is covered under its public liability and product liability insurance policies, limited to the insured sum paid out, the amount of which is set out in the current price list (1.7). It is up to the injured party to prove that MAT has acted with gross negligence. Liability for purely financial losses is excluded, unless intent on the part of MAT is proven.

5.3. The customer shall comply with the regulations governing the use of gases as well as with the generally accepted technical rules and bear the related risks by taking out adequate insurance. The customer is aware of the risks typically related to the use of gases and agrees to use them at his own risk. He is also aware that property damage may occur as a result of unforeseeable and atypical risks, in particular misuse by third parties. Where the customer is entitled to insurance pay out for any damage incurred, these shall be fully credited to any claim for damages raised against MAT.

5.4. MAT expressly points out that no product liability insurance exists for goods used in safety-related areas of the aeronautical and aerospace and atomic industries (exclusion of cover). Any use of MAT gases in the aforesaid industries shall therefore be at the customer's own risk. MAT's liability for property damage and pecuniary losses in this context are therefore excluded, unless MAT is proven to have acted intentionally.

5.5. The customer shall claim damages within 12 months after the occurrence of the damage, failing which any such claims shall be precluded.

6. Quantities

Indications of quantities for compressed/liqeuified gases relate to a gas condition of +15°C and 1 bar; "m³" relates to a gas condition of +15°C and 1 bar. All gas cylinder returned to the point of delivery will be emptied into the atmosphere for safety reasons; any residual quantities will not be reimbursed.

7. Place of jurisdiction, governing law

Any disputes arising in connection with this contract shall be exclusively settled by the court having subject matter jurisdiction in the first district of Vienna. Apart from that, MAT shall be entitled to sue the customer at his place of general jurisdiction. The contract and any claims derived from it shall be governed by Austrian substantive law without regard to the UN Sales Convention. In case of any dispute regarding the interpretation of this GTC, the German version (www.messer.at) shall prevail.

8. Data Protection:

Provided Data will be processed by MAT according to the data protection directive (Datenschutzgrundverordnung). The Data Protection Declaration of MAT can be downloaded from its website (www.messer.at).

II. Additional special terms and conditions for gas supplied in gas cylinders and the granting of use of gas cylinders and pallets**1. Returnable gas cylinders and returnable pallets**

1.1. Pallets and gas cylinders of MAT may be used by the customer only for using gas fillings purchased from MAT and shall remain the property of MAT. The customer shall always disclose MAT's ownership of these pallets and gas cylinders to third parties. Any other use is - also for safety reasons -not permitted. A right of retention to our gas cylinders/pallets is excluded by analogy to Sect. 1140 ABGB.

1.2. The customer shall be liable for the use of the gas cylinders/pallets in accordance with the applicable safety standards and technical rules from their delivery to their return to the point of delivery. He is obliged to inform the point of delivery about any losses, internal contamination and other damage to gas cylinders/pallets as soon as they become known to him. Complained about Gas cylinder must be clearly marked. The customer shall be liable without fault up to the cost of replacement for missing, contaminated or other damaged parts of the gas cylinders/pallets as well as for unusable and not returned gas cylinders/pallets. Gas cylinders/pallets may not be passed on to third parties, in particular for taking and/or filling gas without our prior written consent. After emptying them, the customer shall return the gas cylinders/pallets immediately in good order at his own risk and cost to the point of delivery. The gas cylinders/pallets shall only be deemed returned if their return has been confirmed with a written receipt by the competent point of delivery.

1.3. For the period up to the return of the gas cylinder/pallet, a compensation for use will be charged from the date of delivery, which will be calculated pursuant to the posted price list. The customer shall verify the cylinder and pallet inventories stated in the invoices and raise any objections in writing within 10 days of receipt of invoice, failing which the stated cylinder and pallet inventory shall be deemed accepted and may not be disputed at a later stage. Any fees and charges related to the granting of use shall be borne by the customer. MAT shall be entitled to charge an interest-free security deposit for gas cylinders/pallets provided to the amount of the cylinders' or pallets' replacement cost until their proper return.

1.4. If gas cylinders/pallets are not returned to the point of delivery within the period stated in the applicable price list, MAT shall be entitled to charge an overtime surcharge in accordance with the current price list (I.1.7). The compensation for use and the overtime surcharge will be charged until the day of return of our gas cylinders/pallets.

1.5. The customer agrees to inform Messer immediately in writing of any change of address. As long as MAT has not been informed in writing of a new customer delivery address, all deliveries will be made to the last delivery address communicated to MAT, with the understanding that the goods have been delivered correctly.

1.6. Violations by the customer of the above terms of use, including the compensation for use, entitle MAT to take back the gas cylinders/pallets supplied and release MAT from any obligation to supply additional gas cylinders.

2. Customer's gas cylinders

Unless otherwise agreed, gas cylinders owned by the customer who are supplied to the point of delivery will be filled by MAT and delivered to the customer at the customer's own risk and cost. MAT will charge an 'own cylinder surcharge' in accordance with the price list (I.1.7) for filling gas cylinders of the customer. The customer expressly agrees that the filling plants who take delivery of gas cylinders requiring TÜV approval or needing repair in accordance with the current legislation before filling them, will do so at the cost of the customer. The customer's gas cylinders must be marked with the name of the cylinders' owner; otherwise, MAT accepts no liability for their proper return, unless the customer proves that MAT has acted intentionally. If the customer fails to pick up his gas cylinders after delivery to us within the period specified in the current price list (I.1.7), MAT shall be entitled to charge storage costs in accordance with the current price list (I.1.7).

III. Consumers

Clause I.1.3 shall apply insofar as the validity of declarations lacking form by MAT or its representatives cannot be excluded to the detriment of the consumer (Sect. 10 KSchG). The loss of the right to pay by instalments pursuant to Clause 2.3 and the restriction on the right to set-off pursuant to Clause 2.4 shall apply to contracts with consumers governed by the Consumer Protection Act only in accordance with the provisions contained therein. Clause I.4.2. first sentence, Clause I.4.4., Clause I.5.2, Clause I.5.4, Clause I.5.5, Clause I.7. first sentence, Clause II.1.3 third sentence and Clause II.2. fourth sentence do not apply to contracts with consumers.