

Field Safety Notice

Change to GOT multi medical device labelling

Manufacturer: AL.CHIMIA. S.r.l.
FSN Reference No: **FSN000473** (related to CLAIM000473)

Table 1. Information on involved medical devices

Medical device	Description	Ref.
GOT multi SF ₆	Pure sulfur hexafluoride, repeated-use canister	GOT 007-00, GOT 007-01
GOT multi C ₂ F ₆	Pure hexafluoroethane, repeated-use canister	GOT 008-00, GOT 008-01
GOT multi C ₃ F ₈	Pure octafluoropropane, repeated-use canister	GOT 009-00, GOT 009-01

Dear Distributor, Dear Healthcare Professional,

AL.CHIMIA. S.r.l. is writing to inform you of a change regarding the colour of the labelling for GOT multi medical devices, ophthalmic gases intended for long-term intraocular tamponade in vitreoretinal surgery, following a field issue notified to AL.CHIMIA. S.r.l. on September 4th, 2024.

This notice concerns the following products:

- GOT multi SF₆: Ref. GOT 007-00, GOT 007-01;
- GOT multi C₂F₆: Ref. GOT 008-00, GOT 008-01;
- GOT multi C₃F₈: Ref. GOT 009-00, GOT 009-01.

The purpose of this notice is to inform all users about the field issue that has occurred, to raise the user's awareness regarding the correct use of the device by verifying the gas chemical name and formula indicated on products labelling (i.e., the cardboard box and the aluminum canister), and reviewing the IFU provided.

This notice also ensures that all users are informed of the update of labelling of GOT multi medical devices, as consequent corrective action.

Description of the product

GOT multi SF₆ (Ref. GOT 007-00, GOT 007-01), GOT multi C₂F₆ (Ref. GOT 008-00, GOT 008-01), and GOT multi C₃F₈ (Ref. GOT 009-00, GOT 009-01) are pure sulfur hexafluoride, pure hexafluoroethane, and pure octafluoropropane, respectively. These ophthalmic gases are contained in aluminium canisters and packaged in cardboard boxes.

Each canister contains 75 ml of gas for repeated use. The gas must be diluted with air prior to use to achieve appropriate non-expansile concentrations (i.e., 20% for SF₆, 16% for C₂F₆, and 12% for C₃F₈). The correct dilution ensures that the gas behaves in a non-expansile manner, minimizing potential adverse events.

The choice of gas type depends on the desired tamponade duration (approximately 15 days for SF₆, 30 days for C₂F₆, and 60 days for C₃F₈) in accordance to the surgeon's evaluation of the specific clinical condition to be managed.

Reason for notification

Description of the incident, risk to the patient, and cause

- On September 4th, 2024, a UK hospital reported to AL.CHI.MI.A. S.r.l. that the cardboard boxes for GOT multi SF₆ and GOT multi C₃F₈ medical devices were mistakenly exchanged during an ophthalmic surgical procedure, due to similar packaging colours (see **Annex 1** for details).
- The incorrect gas type - thus wrong concentration - was administered, leading to blindness in two (2) patients.
- The incident was due to the user's failure to adequately verify the chemical name and formula of the gas on the packaging, compounded by the similarity in packaging colours.

Post-market safety assessment

- These two (2) incidents are the only reported adverse events involving patients since devices market introduction (i.e., 2007 for GOT multi 00X-00 variants, 2022 for GOT multi 00X-01 variants).
- The current device risk profile remains unchanged, supported by post-market analysis and clear labelling of the gas chemical name and formula on both the gas cardboard boxes and aluminium canisters.

Action being taken by AL.CHI.MI.A. S.r.l.

As corrective action to improve the identification of GOT multi medical devices, furtherly mitigating residual risks of misuse, and strengthen the device safety, and therefore the patient safety, AL.CHI.MI.A. S.r.l. is updating the labelling of these products. Specifically, the colour of the cardboard boxes and aluminium canisters will be changed to facilitate safer and clearer gas selection.

There will be no changes to the intended use of the devices, and they will continue to meet the required safety and performance standards.

The key updates are as follows:

- **Cardboard boxes colour update¹**

Table 2. Colour update of the cardboard boxes

Medical device	Ref.	Current box colour	Updated box colour
GOT multi SF ₆	GOT 007-00, GOT 007-01	Orange	Yellow
GOT multi C ₂ F ₆	GOT 008-00, GOT 008-01	Light Orange	Blue
GOT multi C ₃ F ₈	GOT 009-00, GOT 009-01	Dark Orange	Red

This update is intended to improve visibility and the accuracy of gas selection by the users.

- **Aluminium canisters label colour update²**

The labels on the GOT multi aluminium canisters will match the colours of the cardboard boxes as follows:

Table 3. Colour update of the aluminium canisters

Medical device	Ref.	Current canister label	Updated canister label
GOT multi SF ₆	GOT 007-00, GOT 007-01	Neutral (aluminium)	Yellow
GOT multi C ₂ F ₆	GOT 008-00, GOT 008-01	Neutral (aluminium)	Blue
GOT multi C ₃ F ₈	GOT 009-00, GOT 009-01	Neutral (aluminium)	Red

This update is intended to allow users to double-check the correspondence between the cardboard box and the aluminium canister before using the gas.

Impact of the labelling updates

The new layouts will feature enhanced visual distinctions, making it easier for users to identify and select the correct gas type, thereby improving patient safety during ophthalmic surgeries.

Timeline for new packaging

The updated labelling for GOT multi medical devices, featuring the new colours, will be available from Q3-2025.

¹ Details of the new layouts for the GOT multi cardboard boxes (Ref. GOT 00X-00 and GOT 00X-01 variants) as compared to the current ones are depicted in Annex 1.

² Details of the new layouts for the GOT multi aluminium canister labels (Ref. GOT 00X-00 and GOT 00X-01 variants) as compared to the current ones are depicted in Annex 2 and Annex 3.

Advice on action to be taken by the distributor

- **Maintain this notice** in your records until AL.CHI.MI.A. S.r.l. has implemented the planned corrective action.
- **Transmit this notice** to all users (healthcare professionals) of the GOT multi medical devices and any other person within your organization who needs to be informed.
- **Complete the attached Customer response form (Annex 4)** and return it to AL.CHI.MI.A. S.r.l. (vigilance@alchimiasrl.com) within ten (10) days after receipt, as confirmation of receipt and understanding of this notice.
- **Reassure users** that they may continue using the GOT multi medical devices in the current labelling configuration, as no changes are made to the intended use of the devices, until the described corrective action described is implemented.

Advice on action to be taken by the user (healthcare professional)

To mitigate risks associated with this issue, instruct the user to take the following actions:

- **Familiarize with the updated colour changes** for both cardboard boxes and aluminium canisters. The updated colours are:
 - **GOT multi SF₆** (Ref. GOT 007-00, GOT 007-01): Yellow
 - **GOT multi C₂F₆** (Ref. GOT 008-00, GOT 008-01): Blue
 - **GOT multi C₃F₈** (Ref. GOT 009-00, GOT 009-01): Red
- **Before each surgical procedure, verify the correct gas type**, by double-checking the gas chemical name and formula on both the cardboard box and aluminium canister.
- **Consult the IFU** provided with the product for the correct dilution of the gas, as per the specific clinical need.
- **Instruct all relevant personnel** who handle these products, about the importance of verifying the labelling and following the updated packaging colours.

By following these actions, user will help minimize the risk of misuse or incorrect gas administration during surgeries, thus ensuring patient safety.

Further Information

AL.CHIMI.A. S.r.l. will notify the National Competent Authority of the field corrective action accordingly.

AL.CHIMI.A. S.r.l. sincerely apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciates your understanding and cooperation in ensuring the continued safety, quality, and effectiveness of our products.

Please share this notice with all relevant personnel within your organization to ensure awareness and compliance with this safety recommendation.

For further details or to request additional information regarding this communication, please contact:

vigilance@alchimiasrl.com.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours Sincerely,



List of attachments







- **Annex 1:** *Layouts of the new and current GOT multi cardboard boxes, ref. GOT 00X-00 and GOT 00X-01 variants*
- **Annex 2:** *Layouts of the new and current GOT multi aluminium canisters labels, ref. GOT 00X-00 variants*
- **Annex 3:** *Layouts of the new and current GOT multi aluminium canisters labels, ref. GOT 00X-01 variants*
- **Annex 4:** *Customer response form*



Annex 1: Layouts of the new (on top) and current (on bottom) GOT multi cardboard boxes, ref. GOT 00X-00 and GOT 00X-01 variants.

	GOT multi SF ₆ cardboard box (Ref. GOT 007-00, GOT 007-01)	GOT multi C ₂ F ₆ cardboard box (Ref. GOT 008-00, GOT 008-01)	GOT multi C ₃ F ₈ cardboard box (Ref. GOT 009-00, GOT 009-01)																																													
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Annex 2: Layouts of the new (on top) and current (on bottom) GOT multi aluminium canisters labels, ref. GOT 00X-00 variants.

	GOT multi SF ₆ canister label (Ref. GOT 007-00)	GOT multi C ₂ F ₆ canister label (Ref. GOT 008-00)	GOT multi C ₃ F ₈ canister label (Ref. GOT 009-00)
New labelling	 <p>GOT Gas for intraOcular Tamponade</p> <p>PURE SF₆ multi</p> <p>Sulfur hexafluoride Schwefelhexafluorid Hexafluorure de soufre Hexafluoruro de zolfo Hexafluoruro di zolfo Hexafluorcto de enxofre</p> <p>EN: Puriest from sulphur. Do not expose to temperatures exceeding 50°C (122°F). Do not pierce or heat over direct fire. DE: Gegen Sonneneinstrahlung schützen. Nicht überhitzen oder 50°C erhitzen. Nicht durchstoßen, nicht über offenem Feuer erhitzen. FR: A protéger contre les rayons solaires. Ne pas exposer à une température supérieure à 50°C. Ne pas percer, ni chauffer au-dessus d'un feu direct. ES: Mantener fuera del alcance de los niños o del público. No exponer a temperaturas superiores a 50°C. No perforar ni calentar directamente sobre una llama. PT: Proteger da radiação solar direta. Não expor a uma temperatura superior a 50°C. Não furar, nem aquecer, nem sobre fogo direto.</p> <p>ALCHIMIA 75 ml CE 0477</p> <p>LOT</p>	 <p>GOT Gas for intraOcular Tamponade</p> <p>PURE C₂F₆ multi</p> <p>Hexafluoroethane Hexafluoroethan Hexafluoroethane Hexafluorctano Hexafluorctano Hexafluorctano</p> <p>EN: Puriest from sulphur. Do not expose to temperatures exceeding 50°C (122°F). Do not pierce or heat over direct fire. DE: Gegen Sonneneinstrahlung schützen. Nicht überhitzen oder 50°C erhitzen. Nicht durchstoßen, nicht über offenem Feuer erhitzen. FR: A protéger contre les rayons solaires. Ne pas exposer à une température supérieure à 50°C. Ne pas percer, ni chauffer au-dessus d'un feu direct. ES: Mantener fuera del alcance de los niños o del público. No exponer a temperaturas superiores a 50°C. No perforar ni calentar directamente sobre una llama. PT: Proteger da radiação solar direta. Não expor a uma temperatura superior a 50°C. Não furar, nem aquecer, nem sobre fogo direto.</p> <p>ALCHIMIA 75 ml CE 0477</p> <p>LOT</p>	 <p>GOT Gas for intraOcular Tamponade</p> <p>PURE C₃F₈ multi</p> <p>Octafluoropropane Octafluoropropan Octafluoropropane Octafluoropropano Octafluoropropano Octafluoropropano</p> <p>EN: Puriest from sulphur. Do not expose to temperatures exceeding 50°C (122°F). Do not pierce or heat over direct fire. DE: Gegen Sonneneinstrahlung schützen. Nicht überhitzen oder 50°C erhitzen. Nicht durchstoßen, nicht über offenem Feuer erhitzen. FR: A protéger contre les rayons solaires. Ne pas exposer à une température supérieure à 50°C. Ne pas percer, ni chauffer au-dessus d'un feu direct. ES: Mantener fuera del alcance de los niños o del público. No exponer a temperaturas superiores a 50°C. No perforar ni calentar directamente sobre una llama. PT: Proteger da radiação solar direta. Não expor a uma temperatura superior a 50°C. Não furar, nem aquecer, nem sobre fogo direto.</p> <p>ALCHIMIA 75 ml CE 0477</p> <p>LOT</p>
Current labelling	 <p>GOT Gas for intraOcular Tamponade</p> <p>SF₆ multi</p> <p>Sulfur hexafluoride Schwefelhexafluorid Hexafluorure de soufre Hexafluoruro de zolfo Hexafluoruro di zolfo Hexafluorcto de enxofre</p> <p>EN: Puriest from sulphur. Do not expose to temperatures exceeding 50°C (122°F). Do not pierce or heat over direct fire. DE: Gegen Sonneneinstrahlung schützen. Nicht überhitzen oder 50°C erhitzen. Nicht durchstoßen, nicht über offenem Feuer erhitzen. FR: A protéger contre les rayons solaires. Ne pas exposer à une température supérieure à 50°C. Ne pas percer, ni chauffer au-dessus d'un feu direct. ES: Mantener fuera del alcance de los niños o del público. No exponer a temperaturas superiores a 50°C. No perforar ni calentar directamente sobre una llama. PT: Proteger da radiação solar direta. Não expor a uma temperatura superior a 50°C. Não furar, nem aquecer, nem sobre fogo direto.</p> <p>ALCHIMIA 75 ml CE 0477</p> <p>LOT</p>	 <p>GOT Gas for intraOcular Tamponade</p> <p>C₂F₆ multi</p> <p>Hexafluoroethane Hexafluoroethan Hexafluoroethane Hexafluorctano Hexafluorctano Hexafluorctano</p> <p>EN: Puriest from sulphur. Do not expose to temperatures exceeding 50°C (122°F). Do not pierce or heat over direct fire. DE: Gegen Sonneneinstrahlung schützen. Nicht überhitzen oder 50°C erhitzen. Nicht durchstoßen, nicht über offenem Feuer erhitzen. FR: A protéger contre les rayons solaires. Ne pas exposer à une température supérieure à 50°C. Ne pas percer, ni chauffer au-dessus d'un feu direct. ES: Mantener fuera del alcance de los niños o del público. No exponer a temperaturas superiores a 50°C. No perforar ni calentar directamente sobre una llama. PT: Proteger da radiação solar direta. Não expor a uma temperatura superior a 50°C. Não furar, nem aquecer, nem sobre fogo direto.</p> <p>ALCHIMIA 75 ml CE 0477</p> <p>LOT</p>	 <p>GOT Gas for intraOcular Tamponade</p> <p>C₃F₈ multi</p> <p>Octafluoropropane Octafluoropropan Octafluoropropane Octafluoropropano Octafluoropropano Octafluoropropano</p> <p>EN: Puriest from sulphur. Do not expose to temperatures exceeding 50°C (122°F). Do not pierce or heat over direct fire. DE: Gegen Sonneneinstrahlung schützen. Nicht überhitzen oder 50°C erhitzen. Nicht durchstoßen, nicht über offenem Feuer erhitzen. FR: A protéger contre les rayons solaires. Ne pas exposer à une température supérieure à 50°C. Ne pas percer, ni chauffer au-dessus d'un feu direct. ES: Mantener fuera del alcance de los niños o del público. No exponer a temperaturas superiores a 50°C. No perforar ni calentar directamente sobre una llama. PT: Proteger da radiação solar direta. Não expor a uma temperatura superior a 50°C. Não furar, nem aquecer, nem sobre fogo direto.</p> <p>ALCHIMIA 75 ml CE 0477</p> <p>LOT</p>

Annex 3: Layouts of the new (on top) and current (on bottom) GOT multi aluminium canisters labels, ref. GOT 00X-01 variants.

	GOT multi SF ₆ canister label (Ref. GOT 007-01)	GOT multi C ₂ F ₆ canister label (Ref. GOT 008-01)	GOT multi C ₃ F ₈ canister label (Ref. GOT 009-01)
New labelling			
Current labelling			

Dear *Customer*,
please fill this report form in full block capitals according to the notice forwarded to your attention and return it to vigilance@alchimiasrl.com. Thank you.

Annex 4 - Customer response form

Subject: Change to GOT multi medical device labelling

Customer details	
Organization name	
Address	
ZIP code and City	
Country	
Telephone number	
Email	

Customer action(s) undertaken	
<input type="checkbox"/>	I hereby acknowledge receipt of this letter and that I have read and understood its content.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The notice has been brought to the attention of all users of GOT multi medical devices and anyone else within our organization who needs to be informed.

Date

Name (in block capitals)

Signature

Stamp