

**aerosol**

Mixtures of small particles (solid, liquid or a mixed variety) and the carrier gas (usually air); owing to their size, these particles (usually less than 100  $\mu\text{m}$  and greater than 0.01  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter) have a comparatively small settling velocity and hence exhibit some degree of stability in the earth's gravitational field. An aerosol may be characterized by its chemical composition, its radioactivity, the particle size distribution, the electrical charge and the optical properties.

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