

Compressed Gas Cylinders Safe Operating Procedures



SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

SAFE PROCEDURES

Safe Handling:

Compressed gas cylinders must be transported using hand-trucks or other appropriate means. Never transport unsecured compressed gas cylinders.

Cylinders should be transported upright whenever possible (always transport acetylene in an upright (vertical) position).

Elevators can be a confined space – NEVER ride in an elevator with compressed gas cylinders. Have one person send the elevator and another person receive the elevator.

Safe Storage:

Secure compressed gas cylinders (>26" tall) to an anchored rack using two metal chains (at 1/3 and 2/3 cylinder height).

No more than two cylinders may be secured with one pair of chains.

Segregate and clearly mark full and empty ("MT") cylinders.

Store compressed gas cylinders away from heat sources, and flammable and highly combustible materials (such as oil and greases).

Segregate according to hazard class and chemical compatibility. Ensure to separate flammable and oxidizing gases.

Store flammable gases away from flammable solvents, combustible material, ignition sources (including unprotected electrical connections), and oxygen gas cylinders and liquid oxygen (at least 20 feet if possible).

Additionally, follow all substance-specific storage guidance provided in MSDS documentation.

Wear coats, safety glasses, and closed toed shoes should be worn when handling compressed gases. Depending on the hazard characteristics, additional protective equipment may be necessary

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Labeling

The following labeling requirements shall apply to all gas cylinders:

Know the contents of each cylinder you are using.

Use only the vendor label for positive identification of contents of the cylinder. Be aware that color coding may be inconsistent from vendor to vendor.

Mixed gases shall be clearly labeled with the contents of the cylinder.

Empty cylinders shall be labeled with the word empty or the abbreviation MT.

INSPECTION PROCESS

Department/Division: _____ Date Of Inspection: _____

Location: _____ Inspector: _____

Criteria	Yes	No	Comments
• Are cylinders equipped with a valve protection device?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Are cylinders clearly marked to identify the gas they contain?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Are cylinders stored in an area protected from high heat sources?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Are cylinders stored or transported in a manner to prevent them from tipping, falling or rolling?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Are valve protectors always placed on cylinders when they are not in use or connected for use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Are valves closed before a cylinder is moved, when the cylinder is empty and at the completion of each job?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Are cylinders checked periodically for corrosion, general distortion, cracks or any other defect that may render them unserviceable or hazardous?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	