

Purpose: To provide guidance and recommended defenses on the safe use, storage and transportation of Compressed Gas Cylinders.

Labelling Requirements

Ensure compressed gas cylinders are labelled as follows:

- Clearly label the cylinder with the appropriate manufacturer label.
- Marking must identify the contents with either the chemical or trade name of the gas as per applicable GHS requirements.
- Labels must be stenciled, stamped, or be physically placed on the shoulder of the cylinder.
- Do not accept cylinders from a supplier unless they are clearly marked.

Inspection Requirements

Compressed gas cylinders must be inspected periodically and before use including:

- Verifying Transport Canada and regulatory testing has been conducted.
- Cylinders must be inspected and recertified within the required time (3 – 12 years depending on material) by the appropriate certifying body.
- Defective cylinders must be tagged DO NOT USE, segregated from all other cylinders, and disposed of at approved facilities.

Opening Valves

When opening valves, consider the following:

- Only use manufacturer's recommended key or hand wheel to open valves.
- The key or handwheel must be left in place for cylinders without integral valve handles.
- Briefly crack the valve to blow out foreign particles before connecting regulators to cylinders
- Check for valve damage. Never open a damaged valve.
- Open cylinder valves slowly and do not stand in the line of fire.
- Cylinder valves on all fuel gas cylinders, except for acetylene, must be opened completely to backseat the valve and prevent leaking.
- Only open acetylene bottles one-quarter of a valve turn.
- Never exceed 103 kPA (15 psig) on the torch side of the gauge when using acetylene as a fuel gas.

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Transportation and Handling Requirements

When required to handle or transport compressed gas cylinders, consider the following:

- Use wheeled cylinder carts or cylinder lifters to move cylinders.
- If non-cryogenic cylinders are moved short distances, the cylinder may be rolled on edge.
- Cylinders in wheeled carts may only be moved short distances, on smooth surfaces, with their regulators attached.
- During longer transport, regulators must be removed, and protective caps installed.
- Do not transport or handle containers that are damaged, showing signs of corrosion, have been exposed to fire or are leaking.



CAUTION: Do not manually lift cylinders or hoist or lift cylinders by wrapping slings or chokers around them or by any attachment to the valve, valve cap, or collar.

Cylinder Storage

Store cylinders:

- In an upright position secured to a cylinder cart, transportation rack or storage rack.
- Away from process areas or incompatible materials in areas that are:
 - Well ventilated and dry
 - Fire resistant
 - Away from electrical circuits and heat
 - Accessible for pickup and delivery.
 - Segregated based on type and volume of contents.
 - Label empty cylinders as such and store separate from full cylinders.



NOTE: Cylinders cannot be taken into vessels, tanks, or other confined spaces.



CAUTION: Oxygen or other oxidizing gas cylinders must be kept a minimum of 6m (20 ft.) from fuel gas cylinders.