

COMPRESSED GAS CYLINDER CHECKLIST

Putting their power to work safely for you

Like yours, many work sites use compressed gas cylinders. Some operations would be impossible without them. Even though their use is common, they are still dangerous. Following safety rules for using, storing, and working with compressed gas cylinders is necessary for getting your job done safely.

Preventing accidents can be easy

Many accidents can be prevented by following safety rules. Here are a few common pitfalls to avoid:

1. Placing cylinders where they could come in contact with an electrical circuit or near areas of extreme heat or open flame.
2. Using cylinders as rollers.
3. Storing cylinders near the edge of a dock or platform where they could be bumped off.
4. Using valve protection caps to lift compressed gas cylinders.
5. Allowing cylinders to be dropped, struck, or violently banged against each other.
6. Taking compressed gas cylinders into confined spaces.
7. Moving uncapped cylinders.
8. Allowing oil, grease, or other lubricants to contaminate cylinders, valves, hoses, or fittings.
9. Using compressed gas for cleaning, especially skin or clothing.
10. Attempting to mix gases in a cylinder.

If you find a damaged or defective cylinder, tag it and notify your supervisor immediately. Use the following checklist for appropriate handling of compressed gas cylinders.

Checklist

1. Do you use a cylinder hand truck or cart to move cylinders safely?
2. Have you ensured that there is adequate ventilation in storage areas?
3. Do you always keep valves closed when cylinders are not in use?
4. Are oxygen cylinders separated from all combustibles, including other cylinders, by at least 20 feet or a 5 foot high barrier with a 1 hour rating?
5. Do you treat empty cylinders as if they are full? Even "empty" cylinders can contain residual product.

Thought Provokers

1. Is smoking strictly prohibited where flammable gases are used or stored?
2. Are there any specific points or problems you wish to discuss?