



Compressed Gas Cylinder Safety

Compressed gas cylinders require care during handling, transportation and storage to minimize the chances of their contents escaping. Follow these best practices to help you, your coworkers and your worksite remain safe.

Handling

- ✔ Complete all required training before handling or using compressed gas cylinders.
- ✔ Keep cylinders secured in an upright position at all times, including during use.
- ✔ Do not strike cylinders against other cylinders or surfaces.
- ✔ Do not expose cylinders to electrical circuits, use a cylinder as a ground when welding with electricity or strike an electrode against a cylinder when striking an arc.
- ✔ Never position cylinders near ignition sources.
- ✔ Never use cylinders for anything other than the intended use. For example, do not use them as rollers or supports.
- ✔ Do not refill cylinders.

Hazard Communication

- ✔ Familiarize yourself with any signage or labels that communicate hazards in storage areas, in work areas or on cylinders.
- ✔ Assure that cylinders bear proper GHS-compliant labels that identify contents and classify hazards. Do not use cylinders that are not clearly marked with their contents or hazards.

Transportation

Before Moving Cylinders

- ✔ Do not move cylinders without proper authorization.
- ✔ Confirm the cylinders' contents and review the SDSs for handling requirements.
- ✔ Close valves, bleed lines, remove regulators and replace valve safety caps.
- ✔ Assure that your planned route is clear of obstacles.

While Moving Cylinders

- ✔ Use a cart designed for this purpose.
- ✔ Use a chain to secure them to the cart.
- ✔ Stay on designated pathways.
- ✔ Never lay cylinders on their sides or roll them by hand.



If Lifting Cylinders

- ✔ Assure that appropriate lifting attachments are used and cylinders are properly secured.
- ✔ Do not lift cylinders by their caps or with magnets.
- ✔ Do not drop cylinders from any height.

Storage

- ✔ Keep storage areas cool, dry, well-ventilated and protected from recognizable hazards.
- ✔ Properly secure cylinders in a rack or chain or strap them to a wall to prevent them from falling over.
- ✔ If storing cylinders outdoors, make sure they are properly protected from direct sunlight and extreme hot and cold temperatures as necessary.
- ✔ Limit access to those who are authorized and trained.
- ✔ Position storage areas at least 20 feet away from stairs, aisles, elevators, and combustible and flammable materials.
- ✔ Assure that cylinders with incompatible contents (such as oxidizers and flammables) are separated by at least 20 feet or an approved fire-resistant barrier.
- ✔ Never store cylinders in confined spaces.

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