

What are the hazards and how might they harm?



Back and muscle strain
from manual handling



Crush injuries as a result
of falling cylinders



Asphyxiation, explosion, fire, poisoning
or frostbite as a result of leaking gas

What PPE should the individual wear?



What other precautions should be taken?

Ensure working area is safe and clear from trip hazards.
Report any faults such as floor damage.

Handling and transporting medical gas cylinders

Safety Task Card
STCPS 08

Including medical oxygen, medical air, medical carbon dioxide, Entonox, Air Liquide

Unit Managers – use page overleaf to list any hazards and control measures specific to your site which are not listed below

Safe System of Work

1. Only handle medical gas cylinders if you have been trained to do so by a certified trainer (BOC or equivalent).
2. You must be trained to identify the alarm and know the emergency process to follow in the event of an alarm sounding and oxygen levels being below 20%.
3. Smoking and naked flames are strictly prohibited in medical gas storage areas and all surrounding areas.
4. Reinforced toe cap safety shoes must be worn by all staff that handle medical gas cylinders as a significant part of their work duties.
5. Cylinders must be stored secured in an upright position, on racks or laid flat and chocked to prevent movement and damage.
6. Full and empty cylinders should be stored separately and the segregation clearly identifiable.
7. Keep storage locations locked at all times. Report any storage areas that are found to be unlocked to your line manager or supervisor immediately.
8. Where appropriate, use suitable cylinder trolleys to transport cylinders and secure the cylinder onto the trolley with the restraints provided.
9. Trolleys should be visually inspected before use. Any damaged trolley or any with defective or missing safety restraints should be removed from use until properly repaired by a competent person.
10. When delivered to the delivery destination, the cylinder should either remain in its trolley with the restraints in place or be transferred to a strapped storage location.

Continued on reverse

If you have any concerns, stop and speak with your line manager before proceeding.

List any additional hazards or risks you have identified and control measures required to manage these.

Handling and transporting medical gas cylinders continued

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Safe System of Work continued

11. Where it is a site requirement to fit cylinders to manifolds, regulators or flow meters, the following additional control measures must be observed:
 - Only use cylinders that are in date and identified as full.
 - Use cylinders in date order to ensure stock rotation.
 - Always use the correct regulator gas cylinder contents, for example do not use an air regulator with an oxygen cylinder.
 - Check the seal is intact before removing a cylinder.
 - Check any valve, yoke and regulator for oil/grease and dirt prior to connecting a cylinder. Dirty or contaminated cylinders should be removed from use.
 - Check the condition of regulators and hoses and check for leaks at each cylinder change.
 - Do not use excessive force when connecting valves as this can damage the valve outlet thread.
 - Open the cylinder valve slowly, using a standard valve key, check for leaks, then close the valve, leaving the key in place.
 - Use leak detector spray as per medical gas safety training, when checking for leaks.
 - Immediately isolate any cylinder that shows signs of leakage (frosting around the valve or cylinder, or a hissing sound) and report this to the manager.
 - Follow all training procedures at all times when changing cylinders.

If you have any concerns, stop and speak with your line manager before proceeding.