PORTABLE COMPRESSED GAS CYLINDERS

The following is a listing of certain applicable codes and regulations relating to the safe handling and use of compressed gas cylinders. The information contained in this Code of Safe Practices is not exhaustive and is not intended to supersede, or replace, facility or local requirements. Consult all applicable rules and regulations. If you have questions regarding the safe handling and use, of compressed gas cylinders, contact your studio or production safety representative.

Applicable Standards and Codes

California Fire Code (Title 24, Part 9), Chapter 53 - Compressed Gases

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 55-Storage, Use and Handling of

Compressed and Liquefied Gases in Portable Cylinders

29 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1910.101-Compressed Gases,

29 Code of Federal Regulations 1926.350-Gas Welding & Cutting,

Title 8 California Code of Regulations (CCR) § 3301-Use of Compressed Air or Gases,

International Air Transport Association (IATA) - Dangerous Goods Regulations,

And Other Applicable State and Local Regulations.

Standards for All Compressed Gas Cylinders

All compressed gas cylinders, whether they contain flammable or non-flammable gases, are inherently dangerous due to their being pressurized. If the valve on any pressurized gas cylinder is damaged, the cylinder has the potential to become a projectile and could have enough force to penetrate a concrete wall.

- Persons using compressed gas cylinders should be knowledgeable in their safe operation and use. (8 CCR § 1510)
- All cylinders must be legibly stamped or stenciled as being Department of Transportation (DOT) approved with a “certified until” date. Cylinders which have an expired “certified until” date should be returned to the vendor for recertification. (49 CFR 173.34 (e))
- Cylinders which can accept a screw on protective cap must have the protective cap in place at all times that the cylinder is not being used. In use cylinders with regulators attached must be secured. (8 CCR § 4650 (f))
- Unless cylinders are secured on a special truck or rack, regulators should be removed and valve protections devices, when provided for, should be put in place before cylinders are moved. (8 CCR § 4650 (f) & (g))
- Any cylinder that becomes damaged should not be used until it has been hydrostatically tested, repaired, as needed, and recertified. (49 CFR, 173.34 (A)(1))
- All compressed gas cylinders, whether full or empty, must be fixed to a wall, placed in an appropriate stand, or otherwise secured to prevent falling. (8 CCR § 4650 (e))
- Flammable gases must be stored at least 20 feet from other gas cylinders, or separated by at least a 5 foot high wall that is at least a minimum 1/2 hour fire rating. (8 CCR § 4650 (b), NFPA 55 2-1.6.3 (d)(2))
- Cylinders containing oxygen should be stored at least 20 feet from other gas cylinders. (8 CCR § 4650 (b))
- Signs prohibiting smoking or open flames within 20 feet should be provided in areas where toxic, flammable, oxidizing or pyrophoric gases are handled, stored or used. (NFPA 55-4-1.2(b))
- All compressed gas cylinders must be clearly marked as to their contents and hazard class (e.g., flammable, oxidizer, corrosive, etc.). (8 CCR § 4649 (d))

- Compressed gas cylinders must not be exposed to temperatures in excess of 125°F. Cylinders should be stored in areas where they are protected from external heat sources such as flame impingement, intense radiant heat (e.g., the sun), electric arc or high temperature steam lines. (8 CCR § 4650 (a), NFPA 55 2-1.6.2)
- When moving cylinders, use a suitable truck designed for that purpose and always secure the cylinders to the truck. (8 CCR § 4650 (h))
- Use the proper regulator and connections for the particular gas and pressure of the compressed gas cylinder. (8 CCR § 4649 (b))
- Oxygen cylinders should never be stored near highly combustible materials, especially oil and grease, or near any other substance likely to cause or accelerate fire. (8 CCR § 4650(d))
- Copper or brass fittings should never be used with acetylene. (8 CCR § 4650(t))
- Always provide proper ventilation for cylinders in storage (8 CCR § 4650 (b) & (c))
- Never take pressurized gas cylinders onto an aircraft.
- Never take compressed gas cylinders into confined spaces, and obtain a Warner Bros. Fire Department permit before any welding, cutting or other hot work.

NOTE: When using self-contained underwater breathing apparatus (SCUBA) tanks, follow the recommendations in this Code of Safe Practices and those in Safety Bulletin #7 - SCUBA Equipment Recommendations for the Motion Picture Industry.