

COMPRESSED GASES

I. Introduction:

Compressed gas cylinders represent a powerful physical hazard if misused. All care must be taken to prevent shearing of the tank's cylinder valve which would result in the tank becoming a projectile. The shipping caps shield the valve area and they must be in place when the tank is being stored or transported. Restraints which prevent the tank from falling are of utmost importance and must always be used. Proper use of regulators which includes never interchanging or attempting to repair or modify a device is also essential to compressed gas safety, in that they prevent explosion and fire hazards.

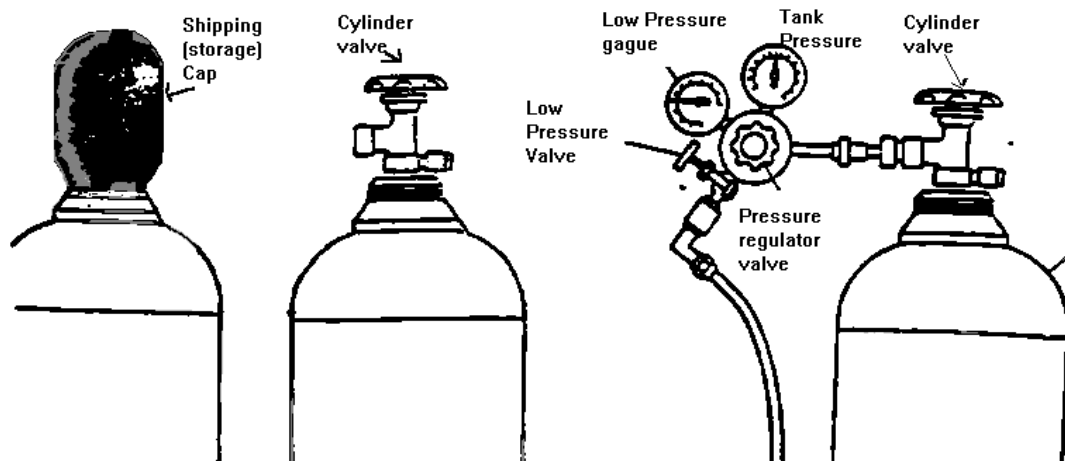
II. Goals:

The following regulations are intended to ensure the safe use of compressed gases in the Pathology Department.

III. Enforcement:

Supervisors and Section Directors are responsible for enforcement of the regulations. Compliance is verified by the Departmental Safety Survey

IV. ANATOMY OF COMPRESSED GAS CYLINDERS:



V. REGULATIONS:

1. Compressed gas cylinders must be stored and transported with the shipping caps in place.
2. Large cylinders must be transported by means of a wheeled cart to which the cylinder is secured.
3. Cylinders must be stored and used in the upright position.
4. All cylinders must be clamped or restrained with chains or straps to a secure support (i.e. wall or secure bench) at all times-- be they empty or full.
5. Contents of a cylinder must be carefully checked before attempting connections.
6. Always use a reducing valve or pre-set pressure controller between the cylinder and the device.
7. The operator must never lubricate, modify or tamper with a cylinder valve.
8. Cylinders must never be heated or stored near heat, open flame or direct sunlight.
9. Fittings, valves, regulators or gauges used for oxygen must never be interchanged or modified for use with other applications.
10. Operators must never attempt to repair defective compressed gas equipment. Contact a qualified service representative.
11. Operators must never attempt to use regulators which are in need of repair or cylinders with valves that do not operate properly.
12. Storage of flammable and non-flammable gases must be segregated and storage areas properly marked.
13. Compressed gases must not be stored in the same area as flammable liquids.