

STORAGE

All users of compressed gas cylinders must maintain their on-site inventory of gas cylinders to as low as reasonably practical and adhere to the requirements of this Standard and best practices for storage of compressed gas. Through good ordering practices and inventory control, the reduction of on-site inventory can be achieved.

- Laboratories must not be used for the storage of gas cylinders. Cylinders not **in use** are considered to be in storage and must be located in a designated area designed for that purpose and that are compliant with the ***New Brunswick Building Code*** and the ***National Fire Code***.
- Storage areas must be clearly identified. Full cylinders must be stored separate from empty cylinders.
- Separate stored cylinders by compatibility group.
 - o Corrosives from flammables
 - o Flammables from oxidizers
 - o Oxygen cylinders a minimum of twenty feet from flammable gas cylinders or separated by a non-combustible barrier at least five feet high.
- Empty cylinders must be identified with tape or other method of tagging and labelled “**empty**” or “**MT**”.
- Cylinders must be stored so that they are properly secured with a chain or strap to prevent them from falling. Multiple cylinders should be stored in a racking system or individually secured.
- Storage of multiple cylinders, outside a racking system, with a single chain should be avoided. If a number of cylinders must be stored with one retaining chain then they should be nested to always provide three points of contact with other cylinders and/or the chain.
- Cylinders must be stored in an upright position unless specifically designed to be on their side.
- Store cylinders so that they are used in the order received. Gas in cylinders can degrade over time and, therefore, unless a shorter maximum retention time is suggested by the manufacturer cylinders should be returned to the vendor within 36 months of receipt. Documentation from the supplier stating an expiry date greater than 36 months from date of receipt is also acceptable.
 - All Cylinders require marking in accordance WHMIS regulations
 - Floor of the storage area must be of a non-combustible base and not be prone to moisture and corrosion.
 - Storage shed must be more than 1.5 meters from any door or window opening.