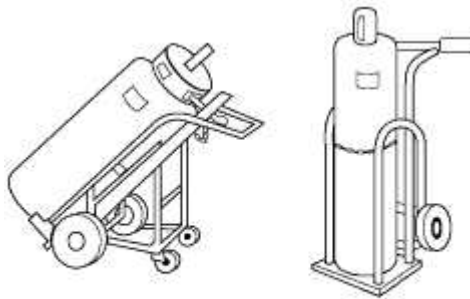


# Gas Cylinder Safety

## TESTING & MAINTENANCE:

- Gas cylinders need to be tested periodically to ensure that they remain safe to use.
- A poorly maintained gas cylinder can leak, exposing workers to harmful or potentially explosive vapors, or fail catastrophically.
- In-built safety features may also become inoperable over time.
- Gas cylinders should be tested every 10 years for dry gases and more frequently for damp or corrosive gases.
- The last test date will be stamped on the cylinder near the valve or on the collar, or on the foot ring of some small cylinders.
- If the test period has expired, the cylinder may be unsafe to use and it should not be refilled until it is re-tested (and receives a new date stamp).
- Testing stations can give advice on disposal of a used cylinder if you wish to replace it.
- Owners of cylinders should keep records of testing and test dates.

## Storage and handling of gas cylinders:



**Cylinder Trolleys**

## Cylinders may be stored safely by following these steps:

- Any cap provided for use with a cylinder is kept in place on the cylinder at all times when the cylinder is not being filled and not connected for use the cylinder valve is kept securely closed

when not in use, including when empty (unless the cylinder is connected by permanent piping to a consuming device)

- Any removable valve protection cap or valve outlet gas tight cap or plug is kept in place on the cylinder at all times (unless the cylinder is being filled or connected for use)
- Keep the cylinder secured against unintended movement by installing chains preventing the cylinder from falling
- Do not lubricate valves or attempt repair of leaks – if the valve is not closing properly, immediately remove the cylinder to a safe area outdoors and seek expert assistance have a water hose or fire extinguisher handy to put out any small fire close to the cylinder – a water spray can also be used to keep the cylinder cool in the event of a fire.
- To ensure the in-built safety features of a cylinder function correctly, cylinders of liquefied flammable gas need to be positioned so that the safety relief device is in direct contact with the vapor space within the cylinder. Keep the cylinder upright, unless the design permits other positions – this depends on the position and operation of the relief device. If in doubt check the manufacturer's or supplier's instructions.