

OSHA Training Toolbox Talk: OSHA's Revised Haz-Com Standard - "Gas Cylinder" Pictogram

[Reference 1910.1200(f) / 1926.59(f)]

Today we will discuss the "**Gas Cylinder**" pictogram that identifies compressed gases, which present various safety hazards (*see this pictogram provided on the handout provided with this toolbox talk, we recommend making copies for each trainee*). Products bearing this pictogram include compressed gases, dissolved gases, liquefied gases, and refrigerated liquefied gases.

Many containers displaying the "**Gas Cylinder**" pictogram on a product label can explode when the cylinder is heated because the gas expands as the temperature rises. So be sure to read and follow precautionary statements on the container label related to the placement and storage of these products away from sources of high heat and/or flames.

In addition, refrigerated liquefied gases can cause cryogenic burns when they come in contact with your skin or other portions of your body. So adhere to all precautionary statements on the container label regarding proper personal protective equipment (such as gloves, goggles, and/or face shields) to wear when handling the product.

Also, compressed gases, including those which are inert (such as Nitrogen and Argon), can leak into confined and enclosed spaces and cause the oxygen inside the space to be displaced, which could create an oxygen deficient atmosphere. In those cases, precautionary statements prohibiting the placement of these cylinders in such spaces should be followed. And always be sure to check cylinders, hoses, pipes, and valves for leaks.

Finally, use care when moving and storing compressed gas cylinders, as they can become a projectile if they are dropped or knocked over and their valve breaks. Always store these cylinders securely per the gas suppliers' instructions and handle them with care.

Again, always pay particular attention to the Precautionary Statements appearing on the label for cylinders of gases under pressure, as they list specific recommended measures that should be followed to minimize the potential for an accident or injury. Additional information about precautions to follow when using and storing compressed gas cylinders is also available on the gases Safety Data Sheet (SDS).

This particular pictogram should help you quickly recognize products which present compressed gas safety hazards (*if possible, give specific examples of such products present at your job site*). OSHA has given manufacturers and importers of all hazardous products until June 1, 2015 to make the full transition to this new labeling system. So in the meantime, watch for the "**Gas Cylinder**" pictogram to appear on some of the container labels here at work, and heed the warnings and precautions provided for use of that product.

Does anyone have a question or comment about the "**Gas Cylinder**" pictogram that you will soon start to see on some labels? Please be sure to sign-in on the training certification form.



GAS CYLINDER

- **Gases Under Pressure**

