



## Leaflet 1: Revision 5 – 2015

# THE CARRIAGE OF SMALL QUANTITIES OF GAS CYLINDERS ON VEHICLES

It is safe to carry gas cylinders on vehicles providing you follow some basic legal and safety requirements. This leaflet highlights the golden rules for transporting small numbers of gas cylinders on vehicles whilst at work. It also provides sound advice if you are carrying gas cylinders on a vehicle for personal use.

Anyone carrying gas cylinders on a vehicle in the course of their work has to comply with ADR. Full compliance with ADR is required to carry toxic or corrosive gases. There are exemptions for other gases if the number of gas cylinders being carried is under specified threshold limits, for example, if you are carrying 1 or 2 portable cylinders of medical oxygen. Carrying gas cylinders on a vehicle for personal use is exempt from ADR.

BCGA Guidance Note 27, *Guidance for the carriage of gas cylinders on vehicles*, provides further information on safely transporting gas cylinders, or other products, such as dry ice, in order to comply with ADR and provides a method for calculating the threshold quantity for any gas cylinders being carried.

### Avoid the risks of fire by following the Golden Rules

#### Smoking



**Never** let anybody smoke in a vehicle when carrying gas cylinders. This includes everybody - not just the driver.

Ignition of a flammable gas following a leak could be catastrophic. Oxidising gases strongly support combustion.



#### Ventilation

Ideally gases should be transported in an open vehicle. If this is not possible, make sure you have good ventilation to maintain a healthy environment inside the vehicle. The best way to improve ventilation is to open a window.

#### Cryogenic liquefied gases



Take extra care with cryogenic liquefied gas containers. They continually vent cold gas (even when not in use) and could leak liquid if not kept upright. Transport in an open vehicle. For medical gases refer to BCGA Leaflet 13.



#### Fire

It is mandatory to carry a fire extinguisher if at work. The driver is to be trained in its use. A 2 kg dry powder extinguisher is the minimum requirement. Strongly recommended for personal use.

### Keep your cylinders secure

#### Cylinder storage



Cylinders are to be securely stowed, preferably in the luggage area.

If involved in an accident you could be injured by unsecured items being thrown around inside the vehicle. Use a carrying bag or box, if provided, to help keep cylinders secure.



#### Cylinder security

Gas cylinders should be removed at the end of your journey. If left for short periods, then keep out of sight. Gas cylinders and associated equipment are attractive to opportunist thieves.

#### All valves are to be closed



Ensure the valves are closed on all cylinders. Check there are no leaks. Disconnect and remove any ancillary equipment.



## Driver responsibilities



### Legal requirements

It is the driver's responsibility to ensure their vehicle is safe. The driver should have appropriate training and knowledge about the gases being carried and understand the basic actions required in the event of an emergency.



### Documents

The driver does not need to carry any special documents to transport small quantities of gas cylinders. However, it is useful to have the right information to assist the emergency services in the event of an incident. See 'Helping the emergency services'.



### Signs on your vehicle

You are not required to display any hazard warning labels or signs on your vehicles if you are only carrying small quantities of gas cylinders.



### Insurance for the vehicle

Make sure you have informed your insurance company that you are carrying gas cylinders on the vehicle.

## Suspected gas cylinder leaks

If you suspect that there is a leak from your gas cylinder, take the following immediate actions:

- If driving, stop and park the vehicle as soon as practical in a safe place, away from naked flames and flammable substances. Turn off the ignition.
- Do not smoke or allow anybody to smoke in the vicinity of the vehicle.
- Check the cylinder valve. If it is open, close the cylinder valve immediately (if safe to do so).
- Increase the ventilation in the vehicle. Open all doors, windows, luggage areas etc.
- If you have a liquid leak. Do not touch the liquid it will give you cold burns.
- If the cylinder continues to leak, and it is safe to do so, remove the leaking cylinder from the vehicle and place in a safe, well-ventilated area. Consider notifying the emergency services.
- Ensure that the vehicle has been adequately ventilated before continuing with the journey.
- If you cannot stop the leak, do not return a leaking cylinder onto the vehicle.

If additional help is required, contact your gas supplier for advice.

## Helping the emergency services

The emergency services attending an accident or incident should be advised that the vehicle is carrying dangerous goods.

They will want to know what gases you are carrying, whether you have cylinders, cryogenic liquid or both, their quantity, size and location in the vehicle. It is recommended that you carry a Safety Data Sheet for each product.

## The law

The Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations regulates the transport of dangerous goods in the UK and implements the European Agreement Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR).

ADR provides a framework for dangerous goods to be carried internationally on road vehicles subject to compliance with standards for the packaging and labelling of the dangerous goods, and appropriate construction and operating standards for the vehicles and crew.

The ADR regulations are intended to protect everyone who is either directly involved, or who might become involved (such as members of the emergency services and the public) in the carriage of dangerous goods by road. Gases are classified as Class 2 dangerous goods.

This leaflet may be freely reproduced, except for advertising, endorsement or commercial purposes.  
Please acknowledge the source as the British Compressed Gases Association. All rights reserved. © BCGA.