

ABOUT THE BRITISH COMPRESSED GASES ASSOCIATION

BCGA represents companies that manufacture and distribute industrial, food and medical gases, related equipment and systems. The Association promotes technology and safe practice in the manufacture, handling and use of gases, principally through its publications which are available from the BCGA office at 6 St Mary's Street, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 0EL and from its website.

Tel: 01491 825533 Fax: 01491 826689 Website: www.bcgga.co.uk

ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

The Environment Agency delivers a service to its customers, with the emphasis on authority and accountability at the most local level possible. It aims to be cost-effective and efficient and to offer the best service and value for money. Head Office at Rio House, Waterside Drive, Aztec West, Almondsbury, Bristol, BS32 4UD, is responsible for overall policy and relationships with national bodies including Government.

Website: www.environment-agency.gov.uk

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REGIONAL OFFICES

ANGLIAN
Kingfisher House
Goldhay Way
Orton Goldhay
Peterborough, PE2 5ZR

SOUTHERN
Guildbourne House
Chatsworth Road
Worthing
West Sussex, BN11 1LD

MIDLANDS
Sapphire East
550 Streetsbrook Road
Solihull, B91 1QT

SOUTH WEST
Manley House
Kestrel Way
Exeter, EX2 7LQ

NORTH EAST
Rivers House
21 Park Square South
Leeds, LS1 2QG

THAMES
Kings Meadow House
Kings Meadow Road
Reading, RG1 8DQ

NORTH WEST
Richard Fairclough House
Knutsford Road
Warrington, WA4 1HG

WELSH
29 Newport Road
Cardiff, CF24 0TP
Cardiff, CF3 0LT



The Safe Handling of Gas Cylinders at Waste Facilities

British Compressed Gases Association
in partnership with the
Environment Agency

BCGA
GENERAL ENQUIRY LINE
01491 825533

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY
GENERAL ENQUIRY LINE
08708 506506

For general enquiries please call your local Environment Agency office. If you are unsure who to contact, or which is your local office, please call our general enquiry line.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY
INCIDENT HOTLINE
0800 80 70 60

The 24-hour emergency hotline number for reporting all environmental incidents relating to air, land and water.



A transportable gas container should be regarded as safe for disposal only if it has been treated as described in this document



Compliance with the following guidance will ensure that any transportable gas container (gas cylinder) received at a waste management facility or by scrap metal merchants is not subjected to any processing or disposal operations until it has been established that it is safe to do so.

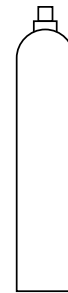
1. All gas cylinders being accepted as controlled waste at a waste management facility or scrap metal merchants should be accompanied by a Duty of Care Controlled Waste Transfer Note. This is a legal requirement under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. (Further information is available from the Environment Agency).
2. Waste gas cylinders should be segregated from other waste types being accepted at the waste management site so that it can be established if the cylinders are gas-free and safe for processing/disposal.
3. The gas cylinders should be held in a carefully controlled storage area that meets the requirements of LP Gas Association's Code of Practice CoP 7 for LP Gas and BCGA's Guidance Note GN2 for other gas cylinders.
4. Gas cylinders being disposed of by a gas supplier as scrap metal waste will have been made safe for disposal by the gas supplier. These cylinders should meet the criteria outlined in Section 6.
5. Gas cylinders not received direct from a gas supplier as waste must be inspected by a competent person. They should confirm that the cylinder has been made safe for disposal or identify what other actions need to be taken to ensure that the cylinder is managed in a safe manner.
6. To be classified as being rendered safe for processing/disposal an inspection of the gas cylinder should confirm that one or more of the following criteria have been met:
 - (i) The cylinder valve should have been removed and the contents purged.
 - (ii) The cylinder should have been rendered unfit for further service by:
 - mechanical means (eg crushing)
 - the burning of an irregular hole in the neck
 - cutting the body into at least two pieces
 - (iii) Authority to dispose should be sought from the original owner of the cylinder.

IMPORTANT: Cylinders not meeting the above criteria should not be considered safe for disposal.

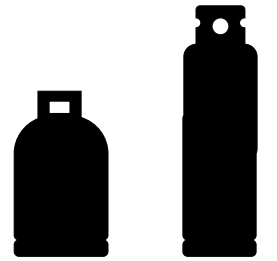
7. If the cylinder does not meet the safe processing/disposal criteria then the following information should be identified:
 - (i) Ownership of the cylinder can be obtained from information stamped onto the metal of the cylinder. This can be found on the shoulder near the top, on the base of the cylinder or on a foot-ring welded to the base of the cylinder. Ownership details will also be provided on a contents label, if still attached.
 - (ii) The primary method of cylinder content identification is the label.
 - (iii) The shape of the cylinder will give a good indication of its contents. (See below). Colour may help to identify the contents of a cylinder. (Contact your gas supplier, BCGA or LP Gas Association).
8. Gas suppliers will collect their cylinders from waste management and other facilities if the following information can be provided:
 - (i) the approximate size and number of cylinders involved.
 - (ii) the stamp markings on the cylinders.
 - (iii) details of any labels or painted marks.

The major suppliers of industrial gases in the UK are listed below. If the ownership of cylinders cannot be identified, specialist waste management companies may collect them. Members of the LP Gas Association also operate a retrieval scheme for LP gas cylinders.
9. It is recommended that organisations engaged in the disposal of gas cylinders prepare written procedures which should include actions in the event of an emergency and ensure that all personnel engaged in such activities are adequately trained. Information on the key actions for dealing with emergency situations involving gas cylinders is available from BCGA or the major gas suppliers.
 - A gas supplier will only carry out an inspection of the gas cylinder provided it is safe to do so.

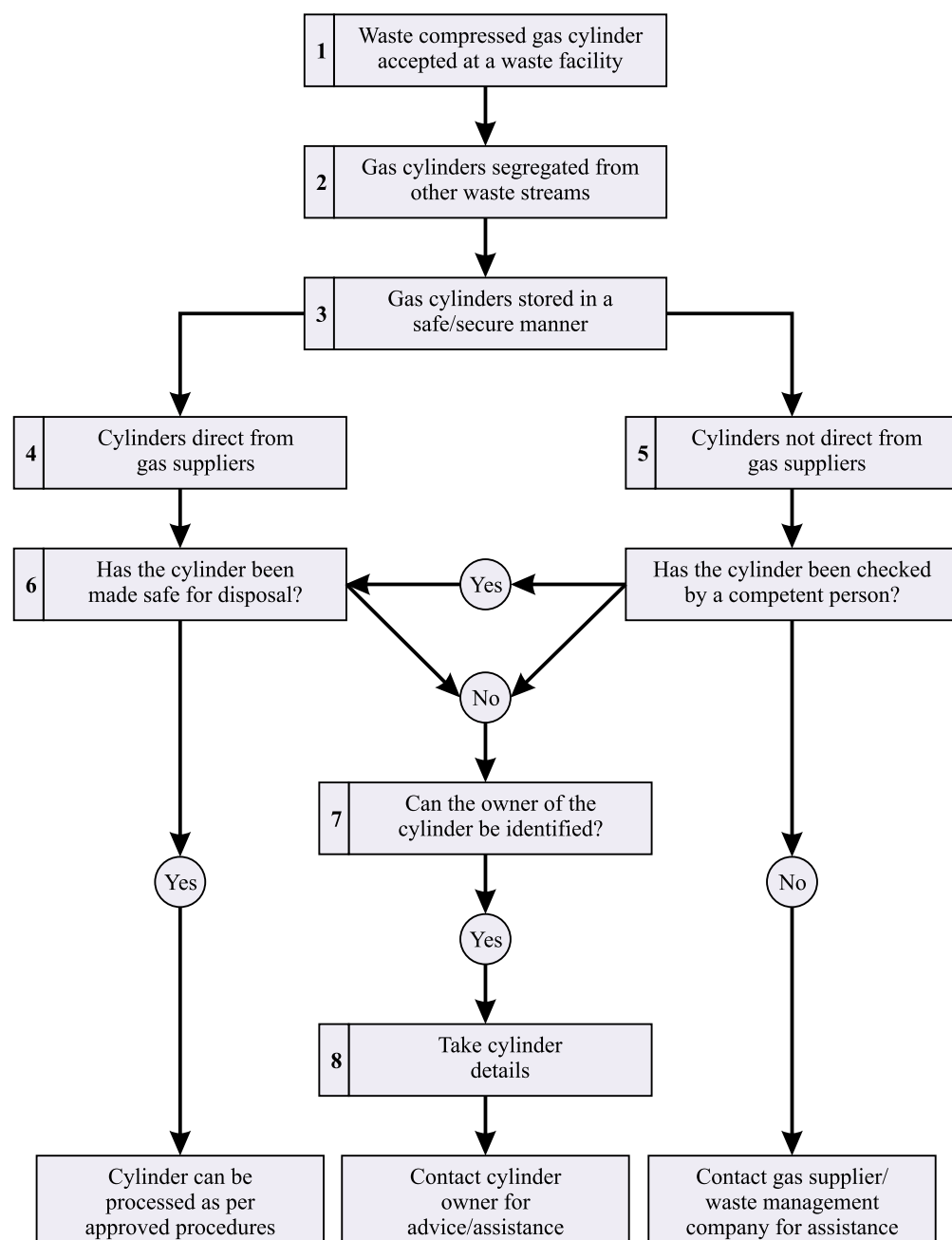
Industrial gas cylinders
eg oxygen, nitrogen, etc are tall and thin with a seamless construction. When empty they are relatively heavy for their size.



LP gas cylinders
eg butane & propane are short and squat with a welded construction. When empty they are light for their size.



Recommended procedure for the safe disposal of transportable gas containers (gas cylinders)



N.B. Numbers shown on left of boxes refer to the procedure detailed above.

Industrial Gases Suppliers – contacts for advice/assistance:

Air Products
Customer Services Team
2 Millenium Gate
West Mere Drive
Crewe. CW1 6AP
Tel: 0845-702-0202 or 01270-614000
Fax: 01270-614186

CryoService
Warndon Business Park
Worcester
WR4 9RH
Tel: 01905-754500
Fax: 01905-754060

BOC
Customer Services Centre
Priestley Road, Worsley
Manchester. M28 5JU
Tel: 0800-111-333
or 01483-579857
Fax: 0800-111-555

Energas
Westmoreland Street
Hull
HU2 0HX
Tel: 01482-329333
Fax: 01482-212335

Air Liquide UK
Cedar House
39 London Road
Reigate, Surrey. RH2 9QE
Tel: 01737-241133
Fax: 01737-241842

Yara Industrial
Immingham Dock, Immingham
Lincolnshire. DN40 2NT
Tel: 01469- 554700
Fax: 01469- 554776

Linde Gas UK
Johnsons Bridge Road, Church Lane
West Bromwich, W Midlands. B71 1LG
Tel: 0121-500-1000
Fax: 0121-500-1111

For LPG cylinders contact:

Liquid Petroleum Gas Association
Pavilion 16, Headlands Business Park,
Salisbury Road, Ringwood.
BH24 3PB
Tel: 01425-461612
Fax: 01425-471131