

SMU EHS Standard Operating Procedure for use of

COMPRESSED GASES



Examples: nitrogen, argon, oxygen, hydrogen, compressed air, acetylene, carbon dioxide

HAZARDS	Potential Hazards	 The large amount of pressure contained makes gas cylinders a potential rocket or bomb if the cylinder or valve fails. Gases may be flammable, corrosive, oxidizing, toxic, and/or irritating. They may also cause asphyxiation. See Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for specific hazard information.
	Selection and Purchase	 Purchase the smallest cylinders at the lowest concentration practical. Order with a restrictive flow orifice to limit gas flow rate leaving the cylinder. Order with a pressure relief device to allow safe venting if excessive pressure develops.
HAZARD CONTROLS	Storage and Transportation	 Store upright and secure with sturdy chains or straps (between midpoint and shoulder) to a wall, or use a cylinder rack, bench mount, or stand. Keep valves closed (with valve covers on) when not in use. Store separately: Full away from empty cylinders. (Label as full or empty.) Oxidizing gases (such as oxygen) away from flammable gases. Post storage area for flammable gases or oxygen with "No Open Flames" sign. Do not store near flammable materials. Do not store above 125° F or in direct sunlight, or outside of the temperature range specified by the manufacturer. Do not store in cold rooms or other unventilated areas. Transport with valve cover on using a cylinder dolly. Secure cylinder during transport. Use a helper if possible.
<u> </u>	Engineering Controls	 For flammable gases, use a flashback arrestor between regulator and hose. Consider a ventilated gas cabinet or chemical fume hood for flammable or irritating gases, depending on quantities used.
	Work Practice Controls	 Properly rated and compatible regulators should be used to regulate flow. Cylinder valves should not be used to regulate flow. Properly rated and compatible tubing and piping must be used at all times
	Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	Minimum PPE: • Safety glasses • Closed-toe shoes when moving cylinders
	Waste	Return cylinders and unused gas to vendor.
1ER	Training	Sign Laboratory Specific Training document to indicate understanding of this SOP.
ОТНЕВ	Questions	Contact Environmental Health and Safety at 214-768-2430.
	Additional Guidelines	Please complete page 2 for additional laboratory-specific guidelines

Li	Laboratory-specific gases and procedures:				