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We prepare and distribute materiel management policy and guidance information to staff elements and units throughout the command. These bulletins provide management policy or guidance of current interest to Commanders, Directors of Logistics/Chiefs of Logistics Divisions, and Chiefs of Materiel Management. We authorize local reproduction.

Army Medical Department (AMEDD) Logistics
Policy for Receipt and Storage of Medical Gas Cylinders
Expires within 3 years upon publication

1. This bulletin provides general policy for the receipt and storage of medical gas cylinders from local vendors. The Department of Defense (DOD) has a well-established policy on the storage and handling of Government-owned compressed gases and liquids in cylinders. This policy is published as Defense Logistics Agency Instruction (DLAI) 4145.25. This Operations Management Bulletin applies to all activities that receive, store, maintain, and issue compressed gas cylinders provided by non-GSA contract vendors in contractor-owned cylinders. Personnel who handle compressed gas cylinders must be familiar with the characteristics and hazards associated with compressed gases and liquids in cylinders. Additionally, they must also know the statutes and regulations that control the inspection, storage, transportation, environmental impact, and disposal of cylinders and their contents.

2. Proper matching of the delivered product to the invoice is the essential means to delivery of the right product to the hands of the right provider at the right time. This applies to medical gasses, too, since they are classified as pharmaceuticals, and therefore a medical supply item. These gases are used in close proximity to, and in some cases intentionally introduced into, the human body. Activities receiving and issuing the wrong cylinders (or cylinders with the

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wrong gas inside them) can do just as much harm as if the Pharmacy were to dispense the wrong medication.

3. An apparent misspelling of the name of a gas or just a couple of letters missing after the name may reveal clinically significant information about the contents. For example, "Nitrogen, Oil-Free" and "Nitrogen, Oil-Tolerant" are not the same thing and are not interchangeable. Additionally, "Oxygen NF" and "Oxygen USP" (both are "medical" oxygen) costs about 30 percent more than "Oxygen". [The terms "NF" and "USP" stand for National Formulary and United States Pharmacopeia respectively. Both are reference books that contain the established standards for the manufacture of medicines and related products. These full titles are rarely seen on pharmaceutical and gas cylinder labels.] Lastly, Hydrogen Chloride and Hydrogen Cyanide may seem similar, but Hydrogen Cyanide is lethal in small quantities and should not be found in a medical treatment facility. Medical treatment facilities (MTFs) must ensure their receiving personnel are qualified to perform these critical tasks when handling all medical supplies, including compressed gases in cylinders. If not, additional training and possible adverse action under the UCMJ or current CPO guidelines is appropriate. Therefore, in accordance with DOD, Army, and Medical Command (MEDCOM) policy, MTFs will incorporate the provisions of Appendix A into their medical gas receiving procedures.

4. Safe storage of gas cylinders is equally important as the receipt of the proper gas. The provisions of Appendix B will be incorporated into the MTFs' policy and procedure document on storage of compressed gas cylinders.

5. Receiving and storage procedures for medical gas cylinders will be an item of special interest in the Command Logistics Review Program (CLRP).

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6. Our point of contact for the above is CW5 Robert M. Dondelinger, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Logistics, DSN 471-7078.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

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APPENDIX A

Receiving Medical Gas Cylinders

In accordance with DOD, Army, and MEDCOM policy, personnel who receive medical gasses will:

1. Know common cylinder colors, color indicators on dangerous cylinders, and both the standard color coding system (see MIL STD 101B, available on the Internet) and any local vendor or supplier variants. (Not all vendors adhere to the standard color-coding scheme. Contents of the gas cylinder should be clearly identified. Color-coding by itself is NOT a reliable means of identification. Do not deface or remove any markings, tags or stencil marks used for identification of contents attached by the vendor.)
2. Test cylinders apparently containing oxygen to ensure that they contain at least 95 percent pure oxygen. If the contents are less than 95 percent pure oxygen, do not accept the cylinder. (A properly trained individual must perform this testing. Their training must be documented. This can be the same person who tests bulk oxygen prior to acceptance and delivery.) The results of this test as well as the date and initials of the tester must be placed on a tag attached to the cylinder. The margin of a DD Form 1191 (Warning Tag for Medical Oxygen Equipment) could be used for this purpose.
3. Read and comprehend the cylinder tag information. The vendor supplies them and the format varies from vendor to vendor.
4. Read and comprehend contract and invoicing documents. The vendor generates the latter and there is no standard format for them.
5. Check the cylinder color-coding to confirm that the color correctly reflects what the cylinder tag says is in the cylinder. Compare the cylinder tag to the invoicing and contract documents to ensure they match. If they do not agree, raise the issue to competent authorities.

APPENDIX B

Storage of Medical Gas Cylinders

Safe storage of gas cylinders is equally important, as is the receipt of the proper gas. The following rules must be obeyed when storing compressed gas cylinders:

1. Cylinders must be stored per National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) codes and AR 700-68.
2. The storage facility or area shall provide cylinders with protection against physical damage, fire hazards, adverse environmental impact, and tampering. Additionally, sufficient space must be provided to enable safety and emergency response personnel and equipment to control the situation if a leak were to develop or if a fire in the immediate area threatened the cylinders. Incompatible gases and materials shall be kept out of the storage area.
3. Flammable and oxidizing gasses will not be stored together. Inert gases should be stored with oxidizing gases, not with flammable gasses.
4. Upon receipt, oxygen cylinders must have a DD Form 1191 attached. (See paragraph A-2, above)
5. Cylinders equipped with valve caps must have them in place while in storage and transport, unless a regulator is attached to the valve or yoke.
6. Full and empty cylinders must be appropriately marked and segregated from each other in storage to prevent confusion during the inventory and issue processes.
7. Filled cylinders are considered serviceable regardless of the last hydrostatic test date.