

Disposal of Refillable Compressed Gas Cylinders

Purpose

Disposal of a refillable compressed dry gas cylinder as specified by the U.S. Department of Transportation DOT3 9 (49 CFR & 178.65) regulations that will not be refilled and shipped.

Disposal Conditions

The dry gas tanks you purchase from Intoximeters are considered hazardous materials for shipping purposes because the contents of the cylinders are pressurized. Each state has its own regulations about the disposal of these aluminum cylinders. In all cases, the tanks must be empty prior to disposal. Additionally, in some cases, the valve must be removed or a hole must be made in the tank prior to disposal.

To dispose of your cylinders you must follow Federal, State and local regulations. For specific information regarding the disposal of the cylinders, you should contact your state's Solid Waste Management Office or your local sanitation department.

For contacts and other information about various state offices, refer to the following web link: <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/wyl/stateprograms.htm>

Material Safety Data Sheets will provide pertinent information that will help you explain to your hazardous waste management authorities what type of material you have for disposal.

Statement from the U.S. Department of Transportation (April, 2013)

The Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has become aware of instances where marked and unmarked cylinders are being taken to recycling facilities for disposal while still containing compressed gases and other hazardous materials.

Cylinders that have not been purged of their contents can pose a serious risk to health and safety.

In the event of a catastrophic failure, the sudden release of compressed gas could cause the cylinder to expel shrapnel or become a projectile, resulting in extensive property damage, serious injury, or even death.

Any cylinder still containing material should be considered hazardous. Cylinders are pressure vessels intended to hold compressed gases, and present two serious hazards - the pressurized cylinder itself, which has explosive potential, and the materials being stored within, which may be poisonous or flammable.

To ensure that these cylinders are safe for handling, they need to be purged of all contents. Recycling and scrap yard facilities should only accept cylinders that have been rendered incapable of holding pressure through methods such as: 1. a hole drilled into the sidewall, 2. the head valve has been removed, or 3. the cylinder is cut open to display the inner walls.

How to Empty the Tank

Method 1:

1. Attach regulator to the cylinder
2. Depress regulator release button until all gas is vented. Vent escaping gas in a well ventilated area or outside.

Method 2:

1. Purchase a gas Cylinder Draining Tool from Intoximeters
2. For more information on the dry gas Cylinder Draining Tool, please visit our website at www.intox.com or contact Intoximeters directly at (800) 451-8639.

