SAFETY ALERT

Notification of incorrect marking of BOC oxygen cylinders.

Number: SA 02/08

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Directorate Sponsor: Jon Whitehouse</th>
<th>Date of issue: 13th May 2008</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contact if different from Property Directorate Sponsor: Sean McGovern</td>
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</table>

Who Should Read this: CEstOs, Top Level Budget Holders, MOD Project Managers MMOs, DCRE, IPTLs for PFI/PPP and traditionally procured contracts, DDEMs, DEFMs, DEPMs, Property Managers/Site Estate Representatives Coordinating Authorising Engineers, Authorising Engineers (Mechanical) and Authorised Persons (Mechanical).

| When it takes effect: Immediately | When it is due to expire: 13th May 2009 |

Document Aim: To notify all relevant parties of incorrect marking of BOC oxygen cylinders.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Size W oxygen cylinders provided by BOC.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturer/Supplier</td>
<td>BOC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem</td>
<td>Incorrect marking of cylinders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scope</td>
<td>Size W oxygen cylinders provided by BOC filled by BOC between February 25th &amp; 8th April 2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>Risk</td>
<td>A small number of Size W oxygen cylinders have been issued incorrectly labelled as NITROGEN (Oxygen free)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Any cylinder that is incorrectly labelled, or where there is any doubt as to the validity of the labelling should not be used</td>
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1. Requirement:

1.1. Addressees of this Safety Alert are to bring its contents to the attention of any Service/Civilian personnel, Maintenance Management Organisations or equivalent that use BOC gases in order to make them aware of the notice issued by BOC. (Appendix A)

1.2. Users are to ensure that action is taken at the earliest opportunity to identify all cylinders held are correctly labelled.

1.3. Under no circumstances should any incorrectly labelled cylinders be used. Any incorrectly labelled cylinders are to be immediately quarantine and BOC’s Customer Service Centre contacted on 0800 111 333 to arrange collection.

2. Background:

2.1. Quality procedures for BOC have identified a potential problem with a small number of their large oxygen cylinders. This concerns the Size ‘W’ cylinders filled by BOC between February 25th and 8th April 2008.

2.2. A small number of recently refurbished cylinders, size ‘W’ may have been incorrectly labelled as NITROGEN (Oxygen Free).

2.3. All BOC cylinders which may have been supplied by BOC directly, or via third party, must be checked immediately to ensure they are labelled correctly.

3. Introduction:

3.1. COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONTENTS OF THIS ALERT WILL ENABLE COMPLIANCE WITH THE HEALTH & SAFETY AT WORK ETC ACT 1974 AND ITS SUBORDINATE REGULATIONS.

3.2. The appropriate MOD officer shall arrange for the Service/Civilian personnel, Maintenance Management Organisations (MMO), contractor to carry out all actions in accordance with this Alert.

3.3. On MOD Establishments occupied by United States Visiting Forces (USVF) responsibility is jointly held by USVF and DE (USF). At base level this jointly managed organisation is to take appropriate action to implement the contents of this Alert. Where this Alert contains procedures which differ significantly from USVF practice DE (USF) code of practice will be issued.

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APPENDIX A: Manufactures Notice.
Appendix A

IMPORTANT - Cylinder labels - potential risk - immediate action required

I am writing to inform you that our quality and assurance procedures have identified a potential problem with a small number of our large oxygen cylinders. This issue concerns oxygen "W" size cylinders filled by BOC between February 25th and 8th April 2008. A small number of recently filled "W" size oxygen cylinders may have been incorrectly labelled as Nitrogen (Oxygen Free). All BOC Oxygen cylinders which may have been supplied by BOC directly, or via a third-party, must be checked immediately to ensure they are labelled correctly. You can do this by checking the following:

**Oxygen cylinder: White shoulder, with black body - must have an 'OXYGEN' label**

In line with European standards (EN 1089-1), BOC are progressively changing the colour of cylinders. Notice: Any "Oxygen" cylinders not carrying the new colour (white shoulder or grey) will be urgently black and carry the "Nitrogen" label. These cylinders do not require checking.

For completeness, please also perform immediate checks on Nitrogen cylinders. You can do this by checking the following:

**Nitrogen cylinder: Black shoulder, grey body - must have a 'NITROGEN (OXYGEN FREE)' label**

Under no circumstances should any incorrectly labelled cylinders be used. If you have any doubts about the cylinder, do not use it.

What you should do

1. Immediately check both oxygen and nitrogen (Oxygen Free) cylinders - as detailed above
2. Identify any cylinders that are incorrectly labelled
3. Quarantine incorrectly labelled cylinders
4. Contact BOC's Customer Service Centre on 0800 111 333 and then press 3 to talk to our enquires team to arrange collection and replacement

If you have any questions please contact the BOC customer service centre on 0800 111 333, then press 3 to talk to our enquiries team.

We believe that the risk of cylinders being incorrectly labelled is small, however safety is our highest priority which is why this communication is necessary.

Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience this may cause you.

Yours sincerely,

Jamie Thompson
Business Manager - gases

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