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SAFETY HINTS FOR USERS OF

ACETYLENE CYLINDERS

Acetylene is a highly inflammable gas and under some conditions will explode violently. An explosion can occur even if acetylene is not mixed with air or oxygen.

For Safety, Observe the following Simple Rules:

1. Always handle cylinders with care and do not throw them or bump them heavily.
2. Do not rest material on cylinders, especially when welding or cutting.
3. Always store cylinders in an upright position.
4. Always stand cylinders upright when in use.
5. Store cylinders (full or empty) in a cool place, not in the sun or near a furnace or anything giving off heat.
6. Always open cylinder valves very slowly.
7. Always close the cylinder valve when the job is complete.
8. Keep regulators, tubes and blow pipes in perfect condition. A good job cannot be done with faulty tools. The use of faulty equipment is dangerous.
9. Do not use a regulator if gauges are not fitted and in proper working order.
10. If acetylene from a cylinder catches fire at the valve or regulator, due to leakage at a connection, shut the cylinder valve.

Check whether the connection has been properly made and tightened. If not so, correct. If so, but still leaking, disconnect and examine parts for damage. Have damaged parts repaired or replaced. Re-connect and test for leakage with soapy water.

Important Note:

All the publications in the Publications Archive contain the best guidance available at the time of publishing. However, you should consider the effect of any changes to the law since then. You should also check that any Standards referred to are still current.

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11. If an acetylene cylinder is heated accidentally or becomes hot through severe flashback or other cause, action should be taken promptly in the following manner:

- (a) Shut the cylinder valve.
- (b) Clear all personnel from the area.
- (c) Cool the cylinder with a copious supply of water from a fire hydrant.

NOTE: The person directing the fire hose should be protected by some suitable shelter.

- (d) Continue cooling the cylinder with copious quantities of water until it is quite cool. This may be determined by removing the cooling water at intervals and watching whether the water on the cylinder dries off, or whether the cylinder remains wet.
- (e) Notify the supplier.
- (f) When the cylinder remains wet and cool to the touch, it should be removed carefully to an open space away from personnel and buildings, etc.
- (g) The cylinder valve should be opened to allow the cylinder to discharge contents. During this period, a copious supply of water should be poured on the cylinder.
- (h) When empty, ensure that the cylinder is cool, then close the valve.

12. Faulty Regulator Seats.

Frequently test regulator for creep. To test:

- (a) Crack open blowpipe valve to allow a bleed flow through blowpipe.
- (b) Read regulator delivery gauge pressure.
- (c) Shut off blowpipe valve completely.
- (d) Read delivery gauge pressure. If 5 lb./sq. in or more higher than previous reading, replace seat.

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