

Proper Bottle Storage – Compressed and Flammable Gas

OSHA 1926.350(a)(10) In Storage Requirements

Oxygen cylinders in storage shall be separated from fuel-gas cylinders or combustible materials (especially oil or grease), a minimum distance of 20 feet or by a noncombustible barrier at least 5 feet high having a fire-resistance rating of at least one-half hour.

OSHA Interpretation letter on when a gas cylinder is considered to be "in storage"

We (OSHA) consider a cylinder to be in storage when it is reasonably anticipated that gas will not be drawn from the cylinder within 24 hours (overnight hours included). At that point the storage requirements must be met. In contrast, if it is reasonably anticipated that gas will be drawn from the cylinder during the next 24 hours, the cylinder is not considered to be in storage and the §1926.350(a)(10) storage requirements do not apply. Whether it is "reasonably anticipated" that gas will be drawn within 24 hours is based on whether specific welding or cutting work is planned for that period and the number of gas cylinders expected to be required to do that work.

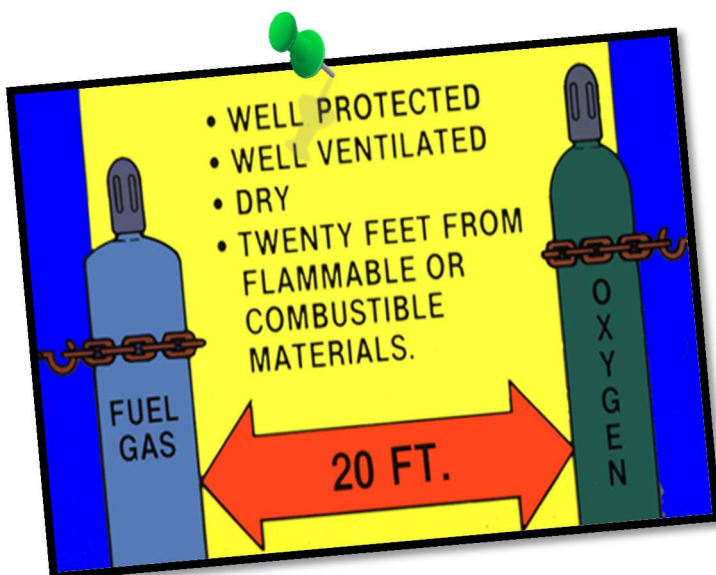
So, with respect to "intermittent" use, once the gas is shut off, as long as the employer reasonably anticipates that gas from those cylinders will again be needed within 24 hours, the cylinders are not considered to be in storage. However, section [1926.350] contains safety requirements that apply to cylinders when they are transported, moved, and used. These requirements include keeping cylinders in use from being knocked over and placing cylinders where they will not be subject to open flames, hot metal or other sources of artificial heat.

Do This!

- Ensure Bottles are stored "Upright and Secure"
- Use Chain or Rope to secure bottles adequately
- Store Oxygen at least 20' away from all other fuel containers (Or provide 5 foot tall, ½ hour firewall between them)
- Place no smoking signs at all storage locations
- Keep a fire extinguisher not less than 25' and not more than 75' away from storage locations
- When not "in use" remove gauges and install caps

Don't do this!

- Do not store flammable fuels/gas near combustible materials
- Do not lay bottles down horizontally
- Do not leave Oxygen and Acetylene bottles together without a ½ hour firewall for more than 24 hours
- Do not store compressed gas cylinders inside



Bottle cannot be stored on this type of torch cart for more than 24 Hours



A cart designed with a ½ hour steel fire wall is approved for bottles in storage for longer than 24 hours



