



### Theft of medical gases

Security of property in today's society is an ever increasing problem and medical gas cylinders are no exception.

There have been numerous reports of cylinders being stolen recently, causing unnecessary expense and inconvenience to healthcare organisations.

Most often the items being stolen are nitrous oxide and ENTONOX® cylinders.

### Security responsibility

BOC Healthcare has a responsibility for delivering medical gas cylinders to your designated storage areas in a safe and timely manner to meet your clinical needs. However, after delivery, the safe storage and security of these products is your responsibility.

As a minimum, and from a safety perspective, you should aim to comply with the requirements of HTM02-01 Part B. Where security is thought to be a greater issue, then additional measures may need to be taken to prevent unauthorised access and removal of cylinders, this may mean using brick or block construction as opposed to wire mesh which can be easily cut.

We would also recommend:

- store locations should be in an easily observed location
- that doors are kept secured at all times with a substantial lock
- that access keys are controlled (signed in and out and timed)
- consideration be given to electronic access control, CCTV and/or alarms
- that cylinders are managed to ensure you hold optimum stocks
- use of suitable management systems to be able to identify when cylinders have gone missing
- that adequate signs should be displayed detailing emergency contact details / telephone numbers
- that both the police and BOC are notified as soon as you are aware of any theft.

### Additional services available BOC Healthcare consultancy services

#### Audit and risk assessment

Our medical engineering services team can conduct a comprehensive audit to provide detailed assessment of how medical gases are managed in your hospital. This involves surveying cylinder storage areas, medical gas equipment and conducting interviews with your staff, covering all of the areas referred to in HTM 02-01, BOC standard operating procedures and best practice.

The audit will include identification of potential risks and shortcomings with recommendations for safety, security and efficiency improvements.

#### Storage equipment and store design

One of the more frequent risks, found in a number of hospitals is that of poor storage and inadequate store design. We have a full range of cylinder storage and transport solutions that will enable your medical gases to be stored, secured and transported with the minimum of risk.

In addition we can also offer a design service, where we will advise on optimum stock holding and design your store layout accordingly.

### BOC Compass

An effective tool designed for hospitals to track cylinders in and around their site. Compass is a web based programme that holds records of all cylinder movements and displays this data in useful reports. This effective cylinder management tool can reveal where your cylinders are, how much gas is being used and at which locations. Giving you the full picture to control stocks, rapidly identify any missing cylinders and avoid any unnecessary cylinder overstocking or emergency gas deliveries.

### BOC Healthcare training services:

Staff training is one of the surest ways to improve medical gas safety and security. BOC Healthcare is an accredited training centre and provides a full range of training courses for all levels of healthcare personnel. These include MGPS courses for Authorised Persons and Competent Persons, as well as basic gas training courses for porters and nurses on cylinder safety and handling.

For further details please contact your local account manager or phone us on 0161 930 6010.

#### BOC Healthcare

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