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FACTSHEET

Are you taking proper care of your cylinders?

Under the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulations 1995, the use of untested or unsafe gas cylinders that do not meet Australian Standards (AS 2030.1-2009 Gas cylinders, Part 1: General requirements and AS 2030.5-2009 Gas cylinders, Part 5: Filling, inspection and testing of refillable cylinders) is a direct breach of the conditions of holding a Refrigerant Handling Licence (RHL) and Refrigerant Trading Authorisation (RTA).

The Standards specify the requirements for the verification, filling, handling, inspection, testing and maintenance of refillable cylinders for the storage and transport of compressed gas.

Under the Standards certain conditions apply, including the following:

1. Cylinders cannot be refilled unless the cylinder owner has given permission and confirmed the previous contents of the cylinder.
2. The cylinder and valve must be of a type and construction suitable for the intended contents.
3. The cylinder must carry a current stamp mark of a certified test station (and must be checked and stamped every 10 years).
4. The intended filling pressure or filling ratio must be appropriate to the test pressure.
5. The valve outlet must be in accordance with standards AS 2473.
6. Safety devices must be checked to ensure they show no sign of corrosion, plugging of the discharge channel or mechanical defects.
7. Examination of the entire cylinder should show no sign of the following: irregular treatment, mechanical damage, fire damage or contamination beyond that which is allowed under AS 2030.5.

Industry members should remember that cylinders which have had their original structure altered are considered to be an environmental threat and work health and safety (WHS) issue.

It is illegal to have in your possession a disposable cylinder, as they do not meet the relevant Australian Standards.

It is an offence to contravene a condition of an RHL or RTA. This is an offence of strict liability and subject to fines, suspension or cancellation of an RHL or RTA.

What to do with a cylinder that is past its test date?

You can legally use gas from a cylinder that is past its test date until empty; however, it is illegal to recover into a cylinder that is past its test date.

If you have hired the cylinder from a gas wholesaler, simply take the cylinder back and it will either be re-tested or you will be issued with a new cylinder.

If you own the cylinder: once emptied, you will need to get the cylinder re-tested at an appropriate testing station.

For more information on the Standards, go to <https://store.standards.org.au/>

The Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulations 1995 state that, as a condition of holding a licence, only refillable containers are to be used for the storage of refrigerant (135 Licence conditions 1(b)).



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