



LEAFLET 1

THE CARRIAGE OF SMALL QUANTITIES OF GAS CYLINDERS

It is safe to carry gas cylinders in vehicles providing you follow legal and basic safety requirements. This leaflet highlights the requirements for transporting small numbers of gas cylinders in vehicles for the purposes of work. It also provides sound advice if you are carrying gas cylinders in a vehicle for non-work purposes, for example, for personal use.

The *Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations* sets the legal framework for the transport of dangerous goods in Great Britain for work purposes, implementing the *Agreement Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road* (ADR). Gases are classified as Class 2 dangerous goods.

The Regulations are intended to protect everyone who is either directly involved, or who might become effected (such as members of the emergency services) by the carriage of dangerous goods by road.

Anyone carrying gas cylinders in a vehicle in the course of their work has to comply with the *Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations*. Whilst it is necessary to apply the complete range of provisions for toxic, corrosive or larger quantities of other gases, there are exemptions from some of the requirements of ADR for other gases if the number of gas cylinders being carried is under specified threshold limits, for example, Limited Quantities or if you are carrying only a small quantity. BCGA Guidance Note 27, *Guidance for the carriage of gas cylinders on vehicles*, provides a method for calculating the number and type of gas cylinders that can be carried under the threshold quantity (small quantities) and provides information on safely transporting gas cylinders, or other gaseous products, such as dry ice. Carrying gas cylinders in a vehicle for non-work related purposes is exempt from ADR.

Minimise the risks of fire and incidents

Smoking



No one shall be allowed to smoke (this includes the use of e-cigarettes) in a vehicle when loading, unloading and carrying gas cylinders. This applies to everybody - not just the driver.

Ignition of a flammable gas following a leak could be catastrophic. Oxidising gases strongly support combustion.



Fire extinguisher

Fire extinguisher(s) shall be carried in the vehicle. Each extinguisher shall be serviceable and accessible. The driver shall be trained in their use. A 2 kg dry powder extinguisher is the minimum requirement for small quantities. BCGA recommend a fire extinguisher is carried for non-work transport activities.



Ventilation

Gases should be transported in an open vehicle, or in a vehicle where gas exchange between the load space and areas where people are seated cannot take place. In all cases, make sure you have good ventilation to maintain a healthy environment inside the vehicle. A good way to improve ventilation is to open a window.

Stow your cylinders safely and securely

Cylinder valves shall be closed



Ensure the valves are closed on all cylinders before they are loaded and throughout the whole time the cylinders are in the vehicle. Check there are no obvious leaks.

Disconnect and remove any ancillary equipment, such as regulators, hoses, etc.



Cylinder security

Gas cylinders should be removed at the end of your journey and located in a secure place.

Gas cylinders and associated equipment are attractive to opportunist thieves.





Securing cylinders

Cylinders shall be securely stowed to prevent movement, preferably in the load space. Where practical, use a suitable secured box, carrying bag or hold-down.

Some gas cylinders, such as acetylene, should be transported in a vertical position. Check with your gas supplier.

Unsecured objects can cause death and injury, for example, if thrown around in an accident.

Driver responsibilities

Legal requirements

It is the driver's responsibility to ensure their vehicle is safe. The driver shall have received appropriate information, instruction and training about the gases and packages being carried from their Employer. The driver should understand the actions to take in the event of an emergency.



Documents

The driver does not need to carry any special documents to transport small quantities of gas cylinders. However, it is useful to have the right information to assist the emergency services in the event of an incident.

Refer to 'Helping the emergency services'.



Signs on your vehicle

You are not required to display any hazard warning labels or signs on your vehicles if you are only carrying small quantities of gas cylinders.



Insurance for the vehicle

You should inform your insurers that you intend to carry gas cylinders in the vehicle.



Suspected gas cylinder leaks

In all circumstances, consider notifying the emergency services. Only take these actions where you consider it safe to do so.

If you suspect that there is a leak from your gas cylinder, take the following immediate actions:

- If driving, stop and park the vehicle as soon as practical in a safe place, away from naked flames and flammable substances. Turn off the vehicle ignition.
- Increase the ventilation in the vehicle. Open all doors, manual windows, luggage areas, etc.
- Do not smoke or allow anybody to smoke in the vicinity of the vehicle.
- Check the cylinder valve. If it is open, close the cylinder valve immediately.
- If you have a liquid leak, do not allow contact with the liquid - it will give you cold burns.
- If the cylinder continues to leak, remove the leaking cylinder from the vehicle and place in a safe, well-ventilated area.
- If you cannot stop the leak, do not return a leaking cylinder onto the vehicle.
- Ensure that the vehicle has been adequately ventilated before operating vehicle remote controls, electrics and continuing with the journey.

If additional advice is required, contact your gas supplier.

Helping the emergency services

The emergency services attending an accident or incident should be advised that the vehicle is carrying dangerous goods.

They will want to know what dangerous goods you are carrying, such as gas cylinders; including which gas(es), the quantity, the size and the location of the cylinders in the vehicle. It is recommended that you carry a copy of the Instructions in Writing and the Safety Data Sheet for each gas product (but, if left in the vehicle, do not attempt to recover documents from a vehicle until the emergency services advise it is safe to do so).