

SECURE COMPRESSED GAS CYLINDERS IDENTIFY PRODUCT NAME

CODE SECTIONS

International Fire Code 2006 Edition

3003.4 Marking. Stationary and portable compressed gas containers, cylinders, tanks and systems shall be marked in accordance with Sections 3003.2.1, 3003.2.2 and 3003.2.3.

3003.5.3 Securing compressed gas containers, cylinders and tanks. Compressed gas containers, cylinders and tanks shall be secured to prevent falling caused by contact, vibration or seismic activity. Securing of compressed gas containers, cylinders and tanks shall be by one of the following methods:

1. Securing containers, cylinders and tanks to a fixed object with one or more restraints.
2. Securing containers, cylinders and tanks on a cart or other mobile device designed for the movement of compressed gas containers, cylinders or tanks.
3. Nesting of compressed gas containers, cylinders and tanks at container filling or servicing facilities or in seller's warehouses not accessible to the public. Nesting shall be allowed provided the nested containers, cylinders or tanks, if dislodged, do not obstruct the required means of egress.
4. Securing of compressed gas containers, cylinders and tanks to or within a rack, framework, cabinet or similar assembly designed for such use.

Exception: Compressed gas containers, cylinders and tanks in the process of examination, filling, transport or servicing.

EXPLANATION

Compressed gas containers, cylinders and tanks must be prevented from falling over. This may be accomplished by either chaining or strapping (no plastic straps) the tanks to a secure object such as a building frame member; by storing cylinders securely in a cart specifically designed for this use; by securely nesting of the cylinders at a commercial compressed gas facility; or by securing within a rack or cage specifically designed for such use. The product name must also be clearly marked per national standards on each cylinder.

RATIONALE

Compressed gas cylinders must be prevented from falling over. This may only be accomplished through the above stated means. Much latitude is given to the fire inspector on what exactly is a secure means, but it must be apparent that in most instances, the cylinders will not fall over. The valves may be sheared-off when the cylinder is knocked over, thus causing not only an uncontrolled release of the gas, but also may launch the cylinder like a rocket with the rapid release of its contents.