

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
ASSAM STATE DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
Ancillary Block, Janata Bhawan, Dispur, Guwahati-781006
Phone: 0361-2237221 (O); E-mail: asdmaghy@gmail.com

ORDER

No. ASDMA.28/2021/82

Dated 20th May, 2021

Whereas, there has been a recent trend amongst certain organizations like clubs, NGOs, Societies and also individuals to hoard oxygen cylinders in anticipation of meeting any future scarcity of medical oxygen.

Whereas, the surge in COVID-19 cases in the state of Assam is continuing and oxygen being the most integral part of treating critically ill COVID-19 patients, it demands that there is no disruption to the supply chain of medical oxygen.

Therefore, in exercise of the powers, conferred under Section 22(2) (h) read with Section 24 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, the undersigned, in his capacity as Chairperson, State Executive Committee of the State Disaster Management Authority, Assam, hereby issues the following directives in the interest of maintaining uninterrupted supply chain of medical oxygen which shall come into force with immediate effect:

1. To ensure emergency supply of medical oxygen to critically ill COVID-19 patients, cylinders meant for medical oxygen (full or empty) shall not be hoarded anywhere by any person so as to ensure the cycle of filling-use-refilling and quick turn-around. No artificial scarcity shall be created through hoarding or other illegal means by any person or entity dealing with such cylinders.
2. Black-Marketing or unaccounted sale, profiteering by hiking the price at times of perceived scarcity and other unethical practices while dealing with life-saving medical oxygen or cylinder is strictly prohibited.
3. The Deputy Commissioners shall designate an Executive Magistrate to verify the stocks of medical oxygen cylinders available with agencies /dealers /suppliers along with the details of its distribution on a daily basis.
4. Conversion of Industrial Oxygen Cylinders and non-toxic and non-flammable gas cylinders (Nitrogen, Helium and Argon) to Medical Oxygen Cylinders shall be done strictly following the SOP approved by Petroleum & Explosives Safety Organization (PESO) dated 22.4.2020 (Annexure-I) and subsequent orders issued by PESO in this regard, in order to augment the number of cylinders available for medical oxygen use. **Persons or entities holding industrial cylinders of the above kind shall hand them over to the Chairman, District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) or the person authorized by her / him, at the earliest.** The DDMA's may take steps to requisition and collect / seize industrial cylinders of the above kind, convert as



per SOP and use industrial cylinders (of industrial Oxygen, Nitrogen, Helium and Argon) for medical use.

5. **Penal Provisions:-**

COVID19 is a notified disaster. Violation of the above directions and hoarding of medical Oxygen cylinders (full or empty), black marketing and profiteering through illegal ways, non-disclosure of stock of Oxygen when sought by authorities under the Government and holding on to industrial cylinders (of industrial Oxygen, Nitrogen, Helium and Argon) or hoarding or hiding them when requisitioned by DDMA or persons authorized by DDMA in this regard for emergency conversion and use for medical oxygen purpose, shall be offences under the Disaster Management Act, 2005. The DDMA, Police, Department of Industries, Health and PESO may initiate steps against the violation of the these orders under Section 51 to 60 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, besides legal action under Sec. 188 of IPC and other applicable laws.


(Jishnu Barua, IAS)
Chief Secretary, Assam.
Dated 20th May, 2021

Memo No. ASDMA.28/2021/82-A

Copy forwarded to:

1. All Additional Chief Secretaries to the Govt. of Assam, Dispur, Guwahati-6
2. The Director General of Police, Assam
3. All Principal Secretaries/Commissioner & Secretaries to the Govt. of Assam, Dispur, Guwahati-6
4. Commissioner of Police, Guwahati-6
5. The Principal Secretaries of BTC, NCHAC, KAAC.
6. All Deputy Commissioners
7. The Director, Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Assam
8. All Superintendent of Police
9. S.O to the Chief Secretary, Assam, Guwahati-6
10. PPS to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam
11. All P.S to Hon'ble Minister, Assam, Dispur, Guwahati-6


(Gyanendra Tripathi, IAS)
Chief Executive Officer, ASDMA
20/5/2021



भारत सरकार

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

पेट्रोलियम तथा विस्फोटक सुरक्षा संगठन

Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation

(पूर्व नाम - विस्फोटक विभाग)

(Formerly- Department of Explosives)

"ए-ब्लॉक ५, पाँचवा तल, केन्द्रीय कार्यालय परिसर,

"A" Block, 5th Floor, CGO Complex,

सेमिनरी हिल्स, नागपूर - 440 006 (महा)

Seminary Hills, Nagpur- 440006

Website : <http://peso.gov.in>
 Email: explosives@explosives.gov.in
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 फैक्स/ FAX : 2510577

कार्यालयीन उद्देश्य के सभी पत्रादि "मुख्य विस्फोटक नियंत्रक" के पदनाम में भेजे जाएं उनके व्यक्तिगत नाम में नहीं।

All communications intended for this Office should be addressed to the 'Chief Controller of Explosives' and NOT to him by name.

संख्या: D-21013/PBL/18-Exp

दिनांक /Nagpur, dated : 22/04/2020

CIRCULAR

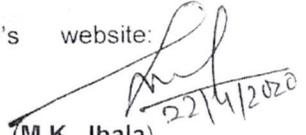
Sub: Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for conversion of Industrial Oxygen Cylinders and Inert Gas Cylinders (Nitrogen, Argon & Helium only) to Medical Oxygen Cylinders in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic- reg.

In wake of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country and to ensure uninterrupted supply of Oxygen to hospitals and other health care facilities; DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India has advised PESO to formulate a Standard Operating Procedure for conversion of Industrial oxygen cylinders and Non toxic Non flammable Gas Cylinders (Nitrogen, Argon and helium).

The Industrial gas cylinders Filling Units covered under License Form E & F of the Gas Cylinders Rules, 2016 may convert their industrial and inert gas cylinders to Medical Oxygen Cylinders in their endeavor of national interest.

A copy of the SOP is enclosed herewith. It shall be obligatory to adopt Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) during the conversion.

The copy of the same is made available in PESO's website:
<https://peso.gov.in/index.aspx>.


 (M.K. Jhala)

Jt. Chief Controller of Explosives (H.O.D.)

To:

1. Shri R.K. Sood, Deputy Secretary Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Udyog Bhavan, New Delhi: 110 107: For information.
2. Heads of Circle and Sub Circle Offices of PESO and Nodal Officers of PESO: They are advised to give wide publicity about the Circular and SOP
3. The President, All India Industrial Gases Manufacturers Association, 215, Square One, C-2 District Centre, Saket, New Delhi: 110 017: He is advised to inform the gas cylinder filling plants and persuade for conversion of cylinders duly adhering to the SOP.
4. All the Nodal Officers monitoring the inventory of Oxygen and Gas Cylinders: They are advised to note and take necessary action

SDM

S O P for conversion of Industrial Oxygen Cylinders to Medical Oxygen

Following procedure is required to be adopted for conversion of Industrial oxygen cylinders to medical oxygen service.

1. Cylinder shall be completely degassed.
2. Removal of Valve and cleaned with cleaning solution, completely dry and flush with air.
3. Cleaning of cylinder internally as well as externally with mild detergent and completely de-grease with cleaning solution (May refer ISO 11621). *Organic solvents like carbon tetra chloride should not be used being toxic.*
4. Cylinders shall be again filled with water/warm water.
5. Drain and dry with air.
6. During the COVID-19 crisis Industrial Oxygen valves (without chrome plating) may be used and fitted.
7. The cylinder shall be painted as required for medical oxygen(IS 3933)
8. For any details please refer ISO 11621.
9. The cylinders may be converted only at E and F licensed premises.
10. Record of converted cylinders shall be maintained in the following format and intimate on mail to seeniraj@explosives.gov.in

License No.(E and F)

Cylinder No.	Make	Water capacity	Last Hydrotest date	Valves code/chrome plated Yes/No

SOP for conversion of non toxic and non flammable high pressure industrial gas cylinders i.e Argon, Nitrogen and Helium to cylinders for medical oxygen service during COVID-19 Pandemic.

Following procedure is required to be adopted for conversion:

I. The Cylinders shall be completely degassed, adequately cleaned from inside and outside, purged and/or evacuated to remove any contaminations like water, oil, hydrocarbons etc., if any after degassing and safe removal of valve. Refer to ISO 11621 for detailed cleaning procedures. Organic solvents like Carbon Tetra Chloride shall not be used as they are toxic.

II. Ensure that the cylinders have passed last cylinder periodic examination/re-test as per Rule 26 of the Gas Cylinders Rules, 2016. However, the periodic testing of cylinders is extended from 5 years to 5 years 3 Months for those cylinders which are due for statutory hydro testing on 31.03.2020 because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and shall be reverted to 5 years once the Government of India declares that the pandemic is over. The extension of cylinder retest is also applicable to industrial Oxygen cylinders used in medical Oxygen service. The records of such cylinders shall be maintained.

III. Cylinders shall be fitted with appropriate valves according to the medical gas in line with IS:3224. In this case, change valve with IS 3224 No.20 (3/4 BSP RH External thread) to IS outlet No.3 (5/8 BSP, RH, internal thread) for Oxygen. During the COVID-19 crisis industrial oxygen valves (without chrome plating) may be fitted and used in medical oxygen service since the outlets are identical. Where yoke type valves are needed to be installed for small cylinders, it shall be according to IS 3745.

IV. Colour-code of cylinders and warning labels shall be according to "IS 3933: Colour identification of gas cylinders and related equipment intended for medical use". This is also applicable to industrial oxygen cylinders which are converted to medical Oxygen service.

V. These activities shall be carried at the E&F licensed premises only.

VI. The records of such converted cylinders shall be maintained.

VII. Record of converted cylinder shall be maintained in the following format and intimated on mail to seeniraj@explosives.gov.in.

Cylinder Filling & Storage license No.

Cylinder Sr.No	Make	Water capacity in (in litres)	Existing service (Argon/Nitrogen/Helium)	Last Hydrotest date	Valve code-Chrome plated (Yes/no)