



**Southern Africa Compressed Gases Association**

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## **Safety Alert: SA01/19**

### **The storage of Oxygen and Acetylene Cylinders in Workshop containers**

There have been many incidents over the years relating to the storage of cylinders in confined spaces. In particular, the storage of oxygen and acetylene cylinders in shipping containers used as workshops on construction sites, etc.

Some of these incidents have involved explosions of the container resulting in serious injury or fatality.

There have been indications that cylinders and gas cutting/welding equipment stored overnight, or over a weekend have had leaks which filled the container with a flammable atmosphere. These flammable atmospheres have ignited when the container is opened or when the electrical supply has been switched on.

The SACGA Safety Advisory Group committee has prepared the following key safety factors to be considered if you have no other alternative to the storage of oxygen and acetylene cylinders in shipping containers:

- Ensure the workshop container is ventilated with high and low level vents.
- Before entering any workshop container open the access door/s and allow the container to ventilate for several minutes before entry.
- Do not switch on any power supply, electrical lighting or equipment in the container until the container is deemed safe.
- When storing cylinders in a container make sure that all the regulators are removed from the cylinders and that all the cylinder valves are properly closed and not leaking.

By following these simple rules it will substantially reduce risk, and make the workplace safer going forward.

SACGA Safety Advisory Group Committee

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