

Enter contractor's logo and name here	Company Identification	Contractor Identification	Revision Index		Sheet of Sheets 40 / 9
	Enter document no. from owner here	Enter document no. from contractor here	Validity Status	Rev. N.	
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Talk No: 33	Title: USE OF COMPRESSED GASES
Introduction: Compressed gases, including Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), are used extensively on construction sites and provide a valuable source of energy. Misuse, however, can result in fires, serious accidents and injuries.	
Main points: ▪ Treat all cylinders as full. ▪ Regularly inspect hoses, cylinders and valves for damage and wear and tear. ▪ The likes of Oxy/Acetylene cylinders should only be used by competent persons.	
Discussion points: ▪ Keep cylinders away from the sun, artificial heat, flammable materials, corrosive chemicals, etc. Do not smoke in vicinity. ▪ If a cylinder catches fire, then call the fire brigade. Cool the cylinder with water spray only if safe to do so. ▪ Always have fire extinguishers located within reasonable proximity to any hot work being carried out. Use hot work permits if appropriate. ▪ Ensure everyone knows fire procedures including alarm signal, evacuation routes, assembly area, and correct use of fire extinguishers (including types!) ▪ Avoid damage to cylinder valves and fittings. Don't use them as carrying aids. Open valves slowly and close sufficiently to cut off gas supply – do not use excessive force. ▪ Always secure acetylene cylinders in upright position. Ensure all cylinders are stored so that they cannot fall or roll. ▪ Consider manual handling of cylinders – they are heavy! Use a trolley for full size cylinders or get assistance. ▪ Always unload cylinders from lorries, vans, etc, by lifting – not by dropping/sliding. ▪ Transport cylinders in vehicles with good ventilation – ensure relevant signs (compressed gases) are clearly displayed on vehicles. PEOPLE CAUSE ACCIDENTS – NOT EQUIPMENT! LPG AND COMPRESSED GASES ARE VALUABLE “TOOLS” – BUT CAN BE LETHAL IF NOT USED CORRECTLY	
Notes:	