

## Transporting Medical Gas Cylinder Required for Use by a Patient

*ANZIGA believes that the transporting of gas cylinders inside the driver or passenger compartment of passenger cars is dangerous and could cause an explosion, fire, exposure to toxic gas, or asphyxiation. It is also difficult to provide sufficient load restraint within a passenger car. Loose cylinders may become projectiles.*

Further information can be found in the ANZIGA Guidance note titled: *Transporting Gas Cylinders in Passenger Vehicles*.

*This safety advice is for the safe transport of medical oxygen cylinders in passenger vehicles when in use by a passenger.*

### Medical Oxygen for Patient Use

In the specific case where a medical oxygen cylinder is required for use by a patient, it is recommended that the vehicle be fitted with an adequate means of restraining the cylinder, for example via a secure bracket or carrier arrangement designed for the cylinder.

Care must be taken to ensure that the valve and regulator cannot be knocked and the option of securing or stowing the cylinder behind the passenger seat in the rear footwell should be explored so as to minimise any unintended movement.

**Cylinders should not be carried in the passenger compartment unless required for patient use.**

Where possible a portable oxygen concentrator should be used. Concentrators are easier to secure within the vehicle via the seat belt and they do not present the potential risks that cylinders do. They must always be transported in the upright position.

Your gas suppliers can advise and provide further information on the medical gas products you wish to transport.

Suppliers may also refuse to load certain vehicles based on the assessment of the risk associated with its transport.

## Key safety information for patients and drivers where medical oxygen is used and transported for personal use in a vehicle

Oxygen is necessary for anything to burn. If the amount of oxygen in the air is increased objects burn more readily and more fiercely.

In confined spaces, such as a poorly ventilated vehicle, if your clothing, the seats or the carpets become enriched with oxygen, they will catch fire more easily. It only needs an ignition source, such as someone smoking or an electrical fault, to start a fire.

If you or your passenger(s) need to use medical oxygen, take care not to allow oxygen levels to rise.

### Ventilation



Good ventilation is key to avoiding an oxygen enriched environment.

Provide good ventilation by keeping windows partly or fully open and turning on the ventilation fan. Do not put your air-con on recycle.

### Smoking and sources of ignition



Do not smoke, use electronic cigarettes or other portable electronic devices, in a vehicle when carrying or using oxygen.

This includes everybody - not just the user or the driver.

Do not charge electronic devices in the vehicle, including mobile phones.

### Refuelling the vehicle



Avoid using oxygen while your vehicle is being refuelled. Close the cylinder valve or turn the concentrator off. Ensure all vehicle windows are closed.

Your gas supplier can provide further information on the medical gas products you wish to transport and appropriate safety precautions.

## Contact details

### Australia New Zealand Industrial Gas Association (ANZIGA)

Level 11, 10 Queen Street  
Melbourne, Victoria, 3000  
PO Box 422, Flinders Lane, Victoria, 8009  
Telephone +61 3 9611 5412

## Member Companies

<p><b>Air Liquide Australia Limited</b> Level 12, 600 St Kilda Road, Melbourne VIC 3004 Adelaide: (08) 8209 3600 Brisbane: (07) 3246 6363 Darwin: (08) 8947 1184 Launceston: (03) 6334 9666 Melbourne: (03) 9290 1100 Perth: (08) 9312 9111 Sydney: (02) 9892 9777</p> <p><b>Air Liquide Healthcare</b> Telephone: 1300 360 202</p> <p>Emergency Number: 1800 812 588</p> <p><b>Air Liquide New Zealand Limited</b> 19 Maurice Road, Penrose Auckland, New Zealand Telephone: (09) 622 3888</p> <p><b>BOC Limited</b> 10 Julius Avenue, North Ryde NSW 2113 Telephone: 131 262 Facsimile: 132 427 Emergency Number: 1800 653 572</p> <p><b>BOC Limited (New Zealand)</b> 988 Great South Road, Penrose Auckland, New Zealand Telephone: 0800 111 333</p>	<p><b>Coregas Pty Ltd</b> 66 Loftus Road, Yennora NSW 2161 Telephone: 1800 807 203 Emergency Number: 1300 657 070</p> <p><b>Coregas New Zealand</b> 141 Roscommon Road PO Box 76-351 Manukau 2241 Auckland, New Zealand</p> <p><b>Associate Member</b></p> <p><b>Supagas</b> 5 Benson Road, Ingleburn NSW 2565 Telephone (02) 8788 4444 Emergency 1300 275 021</p>
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