

## **COMPRESSED GASES in CYLINDERS**

### **Identification of Contents**

The traditional colours associated with identifying particular gases in the 1932 edition of the BS standard were retained in the 1973 edition together with the principle of using yellow or red colour bands to denote toxic or flammable gas, respectively, but emphasis was placed on marking the container with the name of the gas and the chemical formula or symbol. The so-called ground colour of the container thus had less significance than before.

CEN, the European Committee for Standardization will in due course produce a standard for identification of compressed gases in cylinders that will replace the existing standards of members states. Until then the present BS 349: 1973 standard given below will remain the recommended identification of industrial compressed gases in the U.K.

<b>Marking</b>		<b>Ground colour of container</b>	<b>Colour of bands</b>
Acetylene	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>2</sub>	Maroon	None
Air		French Grey	None
Ammonia	NH <sub>3</sub>	Black	Signal red and golden yellow
Argon	Ar	Peacock Blue	None
Carbon dioxide	CO <sub>2</sub>	Black	None
Carbon monoxide	CO	Signal red	Golden yellow
Chlorine	Cl <sub>2</sub>	Golden yellow	None
Coal gas		Signal red	None
Ethyl chloride	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> Cl	French grey	Signal red
Ethylene	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	Dark violet	Signal red
Ethylene oxide	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub> O	Dark violet	Signal red and golden yellow
Helium	He	Middle brown	None
Hydrogen	H <sub>2</sub>	Signal red	None
Hydrogen cyanide	HCN	Peacock Blue	Golden yellow
Methane	CH <sub>4</sub>	Signal red	None
Methyl bromide	CH <sub>3</sub> Br	Peacock blue	Black
Methyl chloride	CH <sub>3</sub> Cl	Light Brunswick green	Signal red
Neon	Ne	Middle brown	Black
Nitrogen	N <sub>2</sub>	French grey	Black
Oxygen	O <sub>2</sub>	Black	None
Phosgene	COCl <sub>2</sub>	Black	Peacock blue and golden yellow
Propane		Signal red	None
Sulphur dioxide	SO <sub>2</sub>	Light Brunswick green	Golden yellow

## **COMPRESSED GASES in CYLINDERS (cont'd)**

### **OTHER GASES**

(any ground colour except those used in the table on the previous page)

Boron trifluoride	BF <sub>3</sub>	Golden yellow
Butane		Signal red
Dichlorodifluoromethane	CCl <sub>2</sub> F <sub>2</sub>	None
Difluoroethane	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub> F <sub>2</sub>	Signal red
Difluoromonochloroethane	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>3</sub> ClF <sub>2</sub>	Signal red
Ethane	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub>	Signal red
Ethyl bromide	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> Br	Golden yellow
Fluorine	F <sub>2</sub>	Golden yellow
Hydrogen chloride	HCl	Golden yellow
Hydrogen fluoride	HF	Golden yellow
Hydrogen sulphide	H <sub>2</sub> S	Golden yellow
Krypton	Kr	None
Monochlorodifluoromethane	CHClF <sub>2</sub>	None
Nitrogen peroxide	N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	Golden yellow
Nitrosyl chloride	NOCl	Golden yellow
Propylene		Signal red
Sulphur hexafluoride	SF <sub>6</sub>	None
Vinyl chloride	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>3</sub> Cl	Signal red
Xenon	Xe	None

Medical gas containers are excluded from BS349: 1973. The identification of these is covered in BS1319.