



The University of Hong Kong

# SAFETY MATTERS

## Inappropriate Disposal of Compressed Gas Cylinders on Campus

It has come to the attention of the Safety Office that there is recently an increasing use of compressed gas cylinders on campus for a range of activities outside the laboratories (e.g. filling of balloons in events and the use of refrigerants in air-conditioning plants), and that unwanted cylinders have been inappropriately left behind after those activities. It must be pointed out that compressed gas cylinders are classified as Category Two Dangerous Goods and are strictly regulated under the Dangerous Goods Ordinance, Chapter 295.

The Safety Office reminds all concerned (staff, students and contractors) that while making use of gas cylinders, users must bear in mind and strictly observe the following:

- Users must be fully aware of the possible hazards of concerned gas cylinders before use. The best way to do so is to obtain and read the Materials Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) provided by the suppliers;
- Cylinders should be acquired from reputable suppliers/manufacturers;
- Never attempt to use or transport gas cylinders without proper training or equipment;
- The legal limit on storage quantity for each gas involved should be strictly observed. It is clearly stipulated in Chapter 295B, the Dangerous Goods (General) Regulations. If in doubt, please approach the Safety Office for advice;
- All work should be carried out in a well-ventilated area;
- Used or unwanted cylinders must be returned to the supplier/manufacturer or collected by a licenced waste collector. Under no circumstances should these cylinders be left behind on campus after use. This can constitute an offence and may lead to prosecution by the Authority. Besides, such irresponsible act can also lead to serious threat to the safety of the University community.

If you need advice or assistance in the above matter, please do not hesitate to contact the Safety Office on 2859 2400 or email [safety@hku.hk](mailto:safety@hku.hk). Your cooperation in making the campus a safe environment is highly appreciated.

Dr Edmund Hau  
Director of Safety

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