

# Handling

## Handling gas cylinders safely.

- DO** use mechanical aids (ramps, trolleys, forklifts, scissor lifts) in preference to direct manual handling of cylinders.
- DO** ensure cylinders are properly restrained to mechanical lifting/handling devices prior to movement.
- DO** remove any connected equipment (e.g. regulator) AND refit any supplied valve protection (e.g. cap/plug) prior to moving cylinders.

### Where it is not possible to use mechanical aids:

- **DO** familiarise yourself with and observe appropriate safe lifting techniques/postures prior to manually handling heavy or large gas cylinders.
  - **DO** assess the load weight and dimensions before attempting any lift.
  - **DO** use suitable personal protective equipment (PPE) – wear safety footwear and leather gloves to protect against falling/ slipping cylinders crushing hands or feet during moving.
  - **DO** ensure a positive hand grip prior to commencing a manual lift.
  - **DO** ensure proper coordination of the lift and that the load is equally shared when attempting a two-person lift.
- DO** consider environmental conditions prior to handling cylinders – wet, hot or cold cylinders may diminish the quality of hand grip and footing may be compromised.



- DO NOT** bear-hug cylinders to effect a lift.
- DO NOT** lift or lower cylinders where the operators hands are above shoulder height or below mid-thigh height.
- DO NOT** edge-roll cylinders up or down steps of 250 mm or higher.
- DO NOT** edge-roll cylinders over discontinuous or soft surfaces.
- DO NOT** edge-roll more than one cylinder at a time.
- DO NOT** attempt to catch or restrain a falling cylinder.
- DO NOT** attempt to handle cylinders if you are fatigued, physically compromised or under the adverse influence of medication or alcohol.
- DO NOT** drop cylinders as a method of transfer – this may seriously damage the cylinder or its valve, resulting in their failure and product release.

Recommendation under Manual Handling Gas Cylinder, as endorsed by ANZIGA (Australia and New Zealand Industrial Gas Association).



For more information, please refer to the Guidelines for Gas Cylinder Safety available at [goo.gl/liw0lP](http://goo.gl/liw0lP) or scan the QR code.