

SAFETY ALERT

O₂ Cylinders & Petroleum Hydrocarbon Hazard

Valued Messer Customer,

At Messer, we value the safety of our employees and yours. We consider safety a shared responsibility, and in effort to ensure the safest standards possible, we want to communicate a concern with respect to compressed gas cylinder contamination.

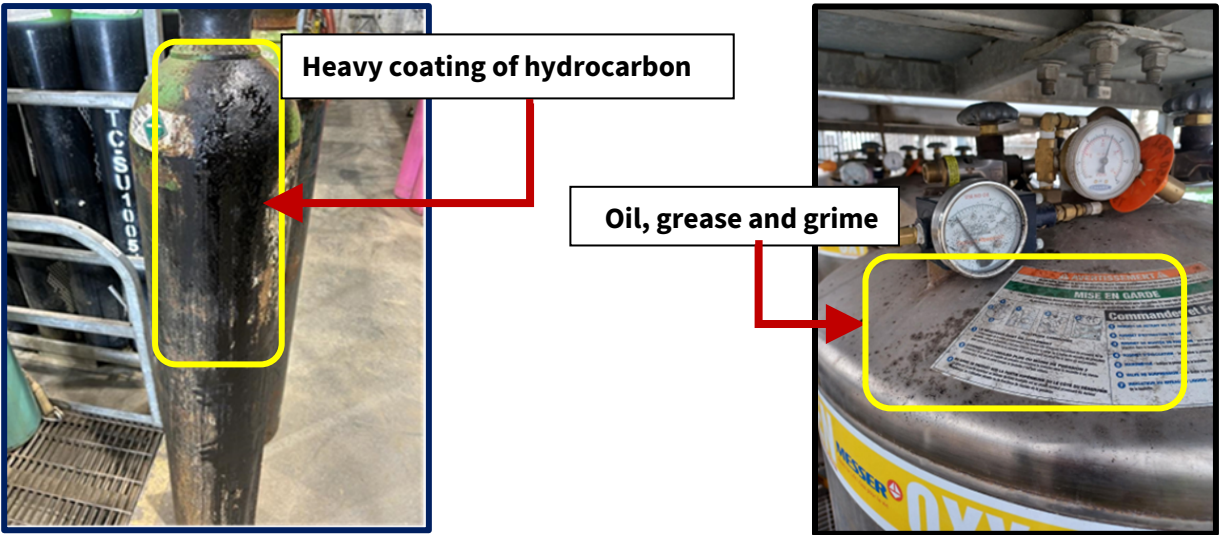
Concern:



Messer Canada has recently experienced incidents whereby Oxygen Cylinders have been returned from customers with hydrocarbon contamination, such as oil and grease, around the head and regulator assemblies of the cylinder.



Oxidizers and hydrocarbons are a dangerous combination. As Oxygen is a strong oxidizer supporting and accelerating the process of combustion, this is a significant hazard we want to bring to your attention.



We ask for your cooperation in adhering to the following safe-work practices involving O₂ cylinders:

Do	• Ensure Oxygen cylinders are stored in a safe location, away from flammable or incompatible materials. • Secure cylinders from falling, moving equipment, and sources of heat. • All materials and equipment introduced into the compressed oxygen system should be clean and maintained to prevent contamination with flammable or non-oxygen compatible substances. • Open valves slowly to reduce the potential for heat build-up due to friction. High oxygen velocities can generate a potential source of ignition. • Read and follow hazard statements on all associated cylinder labelling. • Refer to Safety Data Sheet for more information.
Do Not	• Do not handle oxygen cylinders or touch cylinder heads or regulators with hands or gloves that are contaminated with oils, grease, or other hydrocarbons that may result in contamination. • Do not attempt to clean oxygen cylinders or associated components. Many cleaning agents, including organic solvents or other hydrocarbons are not compatible with oxidizers. Isolate them in a safe place away from other cylinders to avoid cross-contamination for our staff to reclaim. • Do not store oxygen cylinders in areas where hydrocarbon-based aerosols or liquids may come into contact with oxygen cylinders due to drips, over-spray or other means of potential contamination.

If you have any questions, concerns or requests for additional information, please do not hesitate to contact your account representative.

Thank you,
Messer Canada