

Covid-19: External cleaning & Handling of Medical Gas Cylinders



Customer Liaison:

- Encourage Hospitals to clean and disinfect cylinders prior to collection by the gas supplier
- Ensure identification of externally contaminated cylinders with clear marking or labelling
- Cylinder pick up area to be located away from the patient wards and infection area of the hospital

Disinfecting the Cylinders - Options:

- Wipe clean or spray clean with (leave the disinfectant minimum for 2 minutes after applying)
 - 70% Iso Propyl Alcohol (IPA) or Ethyl Alcohol
 - Diluted Bleach/Water Solution
 - ✓ 0.1% Sodium Hypochlorite Solution
 - ✓ 0.5% Hydrogen Peroxide Solution
- High pressure hot water or Steam jet but with caution

Disinfecting the Cylinders - Cautions:

- Never Re-Use Wipes after disinfecting the cylinders
- Excess Alcohol to be removed by air blower if spray cleaning is used
- Bleach/Water Solution cleaning to follow thorough water wash (wipe or rinse with clean water)
- Bleach solution can cause Stress Corrosion Cracking of brass valves and pitting corrosion to cylinder body
- Steam/Water temperature not to exceed 65 Deg C; can cause damage to valves and some Aluminum alloy & Composite cylinders

Care for Personnel & PPEs to Be Used:

- Disposable gloves when handling cyls
- Disposable particulate respirator (N-95)
- Protective clothing (Disposable outer garments or coveralls)
- Do not touch face before washing hands
- Observe good personal hygiene prior to eating or drinking, eg washing hands with soap and water > 20 seconds

Disposal of Used PPEs, Wipes etc:

- After handling infected cylinders, discard disposable PPEs safely
- Non disposable PPEs should be cleaned and disinfected properly
- Used Wipes should be disposed safely
- Contaminated water from wash to be safely disposed as per local Regulation

NOTE: For more details Ref to AIGA 077/20 and AIGA Safety Bulletin SB 21/20