

## Transporting DOT Cylinders

### **Description:**

Federal regulations govern the transportation of DOT cylinders in commerce used to ship LP-gas.

### **Regulatory Reference**

49 CFR § 173.301 General requirements for shipment of compressed gases in cylinders and spherical pressure vessels

### **Applies to:**

The regulations apply to all persons who transport LP-gas cylinders in commerce.

### **General Requirements:**

General requirements for the transportation of LP-gas in cylinders are found in 49 CFR § 173.301.

- (1) Paragraph (c) requires that, "A container for which prescribed periodic retest has become due must not be charged and shipped until such retest has been properly made."
- (2) Paragraph (g) requires that containers charged with flammable gases must have their valves protected by one of the following methods:
  - (a) By equipping the containers with securely attached metal caps of sufficient strength to protect the valves from injury during transit.
  - (b) By boxing or crating the containers so as to give proper protection to the valves.
  - (c) By so constructing the containers that the valve is recessed into the container or otherwise protected so that it will not be subjected to a blow when the container is dropped on a flat surface.
  - (d) By loading the containers compactly in an upright position and securely bracing in cars or motor vehicles, when loaded by the consignor and to be unloaded by the consignee.

Methods (a), (c), and (d) apply to portable and stationary LP-gas cylinders transported by propane marketing companies. Method (b) is used for small non-refillable cylinders.

- (3) In addition to these specific requirements, the other regulations regarding container labeling, vehicle placarding, shipping papers, and emergency information covered in other guides in this reference apply as well.

### **Training Requirements:**

There are no specific training requirements for the regulation except as a function-specific training element of hazmat employee training.

### **Maintenance and Review**

Observation by supervisors and managers of employees loading and transporting cylinders, and the development of company-specific standard operating procedures that are periodically reviewed with employees are effective compliance measures.

**Additional Information and Resources**

*Propane Delivery*, Certification Area 2.0, Certified Employee Training Program, National Propane Gas Association, Lisle, IL

*Initial OSHA and DOT Training: For the Handling and Transport of Hazardous Materials*, Propane Education and Research Council, Washington, DC