

# Compressed Gas Systems Safety Policy

## Synopsis

The Gas Systems Safety Policy outlines the roles and responsibilities for those involved in the management and use of fixed gas systems within the University of Aberdeen

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## Approval

**Approved by: SMT**

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## Revision Record

Issue	Date	Reason for Review
Draft 1	Feb 2024	New document for consultation
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## 1.0 Purpose of the Policy

This policy relates to the safe operation of fixed compressed gas cylinder systems by the University of Aberdeen (UoA) and provides a management framework.

- to ensure the health and safety of staff, students, and members of the public.
- to protect the environment.
- to ensure compliance with the relevant legislation.

The management framework includes a description of responsibilities of UOA staff and provisions for seeking expert advice.

## 2.0 Scope of the Policy

The scope of the policy applies to all staff and students because it is recognised that both directorates and Schools and Support Services across UoA use fixed gas systems as a critical part of their function, supporting both teaching and research alike. It is therefore incumbent on Schools and Support Services to manage the use, maintenance, and inspection of these systems to ensure the safety of all those with access to campus

## 3.0 Definitions & Abbreviations

Term	Definition
UoA	University of Aberdeen
TRM	Technical Resource Manager
TRO	Technical Resource Officer

## 4.0 Legislative Requirements

The legislative duties that the UoA must comply with are highlighted below.

These cover the scope, design, manufacture, and initial integrity of cylinders used together with the regulators and other ancillary accessories used with fixed gas systems.

- The Pressure Equipment Regulations 1999 (SI 1999/2001)
- The Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000 (SI128/2000).
- Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2002 (SI 2776/2000)
- The Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations 2007 (SI 2007 No.1573).

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## 5.0 Responsibilities

### Court

The University Court has ultimate responsibility for overseeing health, safety and wellbeing matters at the University. As such, they should seek assurance that appropriate risk control measures are in place and acted upon in relation to activities across the University that could give rise to significant risk. They should be aware of significant health and safety risks across the University.

### Senior Leadership Team

The Senior Management Team has delegated authority from the University Court and as such, should seek reassurance that appropriate risk control measures are in place, are being implemented and that those with risk management and assessment responsibilities are trained and competent.

### Heads of Schools/Directorates

In the context of this document, Heads of Schools/Directorates are responsible for ensuring staff and students comply with risk assessments, adhere to best practices when transporting, installing, and operating fixed compressed gas systems and associated equipment. In particular they should ensure that:

- line managers and supervisors are aware of their responsibilities within schools with regard to compressed gas systems and that they are aware of the relevant regulations and guidance.
- suitable risk assessments are conducted, recorded, and approved ahead of work being carried out.
- measures are provided to eliminate or control risks arising from work with gas systems.
- any incidents involving gas systems are investigated, records kept, and learning disseminated as appropriate.
- equipment and facilities are maintained and, where appropriate, tested to ensure safe operation.
- controls are in place regarding the purchase of regulators and ancillary equipment.
- individuals who undertake work with gas systems are competent to do so and are provided with the appropriate information, instruction, and training to do so safely.
- suitably trained individuals are appointed and trained to modify equipment if required.
- that appropriate expert advice is taken from the Health, Safety and Resilience Team when appropriate.

### Line Managers / Supervisors

Line Managers / Supervisors must ensure that:

- work with gas systems has been properly risk assessed in accordance with regulation and guidance documents.
- the findings of the risk assessments are acted upon and appropriate controls, corresponding to the risk, are implemented.

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- local rules describing the safety arrangements are in place within the work area and that these rules are disseminated to all staff, students and contractors who may be affected by them.
- staff with students under their supervision have received training, information, and instruction relevant to the risks.
- in the event of accidents or incidents, the TRM or TROs are informed as well as the Health, Safety and Resilience Team.
- for installation of new compressed gas systems, the relevant individuals liaise with the TRMs or TROs and that they seek advice from the Health, Safety and Resilience Team.

### Trained Staff

All users and operators of gas systems must know how to identify the contents of a cylinder, be aware of the hazards of the gases in use and cylinders in general, have received training on modification and have completed, read, and understood all applicable risk assessments. Only nominated and appropriately trained technical staff will be permitted to modify regulators.

### Expert advice

Expert advice could be sought as part of the UoA obligations under the legislation and general health and safety guidance. This would be an expectation when new systems are to be designed and installed.

## 6.0 References

Document Number	Document Name
HS-PO-001	Health and Safety Policy
TBC	Fixed Gas Systems Guidance (to be developed)
N/A	<a href="#">The Pressure Equipment Regulations 1999 (SI 1999/2001)</a>
N/A	<a href="#">The Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000 (SI128/2000).</a>
N/A	<a href="#">Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2002 (SI 2776/2000)</a>
N/A	<a href="#">The Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations 2007 (SI 2007 No.1573).</a>