



COMPRESSED GAS ASSOCIATION, INC.

SAFETY ALERT

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SCRAP B AND MC ACETYLENE CYLINDERS RE-ENTERING THE MARKET PLACE

Over the past several years, “B” and “MC” style cylinders have been rejected from filling if they were found to have a loose porous mass. Loose porous mass is found by shaking the cylinder during the pre-fill inspection or requalification process. CGA C-13, *Guidelines for Periodic Visual Inspection and Requalification of Acetylene Cylinders*, section 5.5.3.4 describes the process of shaking these styles of cylinders in the following manner [1]:

Alternate method for checking ‘B’ (40 cu ft) and ‘MC’ (10 cu ft) cylinders. On ‘B’ and ‘MC’ cylinders, the porous mass may be checked by holding the cylinder longitudinally in an inverted position at 45 degrees, and shaking the cylinder to detect any movement of the porous mass. Rotate the cylinder 90 degrees, and shake again. The cylinder is acceptable if no movement is felt or heard. Therefore, valve removal and measurement of the head-to-porous mass is not necessary.

Cylinders that were found to be “shakers” (loose porous mass) were rejected from the filling or requalification process and were set aside for an actual internal inspection or simply set aside and considered “scrap,” although further disposition may not have taken place.

Recently, about 200 “B” and “MC” acetylene cylinders were delivered into a California acetylene plant for filling. The cylinders had been freshly painted and did not have any labels on them. The valves looked like they had been recently removed, and the cylinders had no markings indicating they had been requalified.

The plant manager became suspicious and decided to remove some of the valves to examine them. He found sand and some sort of rope-like packing material inside them. After examining several of the cylinders, it was concluded that these cylinders had been set aside as “shakers,” modified, and sold back into the industry.

We urgently recommend that all companies operating acetylene plants and/or requalification facilities alert their employees to this problem. Cylinders modified in this manner are unsafe and must be removed from service. A copy of this safety alert should be posted in acetylene fill plants and acetylene requalification areas.

Reference

[1] CGA C-13, *Guidelines for Periodic Visual Inspection and Requalification of Acetylene Cylinders*, Compressed Gas Association, Inc., 4221 Walney Rd., 5th Floor, Chantilly, VA 20151.

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