

Dangerous goods – Gas

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# Class 2.1 LP gas: exchange gas cylinder cage storage, licensing & signage requirements >



This information bulletin outlines the general requirements for the siting, signage, security, licensing and operations of an exchange cage for flammable gas in portable 9 kg cylinders.



## Legislation

Operators of LP gas exchange cages have responsibilities under both the [Workplace Health and Safety Act](#) and the [Dangerous Goods Act](#) (DG). This information bulletin summarises the requirements specifically relating to the keeping and operation of LP gas cylinder exchange cages to assist compliance with the prescribed regulations and applicable standards.

putting safety first >



## Site suitability

The installation and positioning of the cylinder exchange cage shall be in accordance with [AS/NZS 1596:1997](#). Cylinder exchange cages shall not be stored indoors. The installation shall be positioned in such a location that the following separation distances are achieved:

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| a) To an opening into a building   | 2m |
| b) To buildings on neighbouring property or to any combustible materials stored above ground   | 5m |
| c) To public places  | 3m |
| d) To any above-ground tank containing dangerous goods, other than above ground LP gas storage | 3m |
| e) To dispensers for any type of fuel  | 3m |
| f) To the entrance to a drain, pit or basement   | 3m |
| g) To any structure limiting egress past the exchange cage                                     | 2m |
| h) To any ignition point that could fall within the hazardous zone of the cylinder             | 2m |

## Licensing requirements

A person is required to obtain a DG Storage Licence under the *DG Act* where the quantity of LP gas stored exceeds 200 kg. An exchange cage has the capacity to hold 216 kg of 9-kg gas containers; therefore, under DG Regulation 144 (2) (a), the sale outlet is required to hold a DG Storage Licence to cover insurance and Work Health obligations.

**A DG storage licence is to be obtained before the gas exchange cage is installed at the site.**

The gas supplier should provide a DG storage licence application, if not, it can be obtained by phoning a [Territory Business Centre](#) (TBC). TBC's are part of the Department of Business and Employment and are located in Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek, and Alice Springs.

## Signage

Cylinder exchange cages shall prominently display on the front of the exchange cage or enclosure:

- A Class 2 DG class label of at least 100mm x 100mm dimension,
- A warning notice in red letters (preferably on a white background) in letters not less than 50mm high, reading:  
    **“FLAMMABLE GAS – NO SMOKING”**, and
- Detailed instructions (checklist) for exchange procedures.

## Security

Gas cylinders on an unattended site, which is in an area accessible to the public, shall be protected from tampering by providing a locked ventilated enclosure, or cage.

## Collision protection

Cylinder exchange cages should be located in consideration of the vehicle traffic. Where there is a risk of collision, the cage is to be protected by collision avoidance poles (75mm steel cement filled pipes) set into concrete, spaced at 1.3m apart, not less than 1m from the cylinder cage and not less than 1.2m high.

## Adjacent storage

The following is to be adhered to:

- Empty cylinders once they have been exchanged shall be marked appropriately for ease of identification, and
- A clear means of egress in more than one direction and not less than 1m wide shall be maintained from the exchange point.

## Fire protection

One dry chemical fire extinguisher having a rating of 3A 40B(E) capacity of at least 4.5 kilograms shall at all times be provided in such a position that it can be conveniently used for fire control.

## Gas exchange instruction & training

Ensure that the site operators who perform the exchange operation:

- have completed gas exchange instructional training, and
- are competent with the emergency procedures associated with the task.

## First aid

If LP gas in liquid form comes in contact with the bare skin or eyes, immediately wash the affected areas with water for at least 10 minutes and see a doctor.

## NT WorkSafe >

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