

Welding/cutting operations and equipment—important points

1. All personnel involved in welding operations should be properly trained and competent.
2. Welding/cutting equipment including hose, cables and gauges should be regularly inspected.
3. All gas welding/cutting cylinders should be stored properly as per regulations/guidance notes. If oxygen and acetylene cylinders used on site exceed exempted quantities, a valid DG license must be obtained. In any event, they should still be stored in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Safety and Health at Work for Gas Welding and Flame Cutting*.
4. Gas gauges should be provided with appropriate flashback arresters.
5. For electric arc welding, adequate welding earths and returns should be properly connected to the workpiece.
6. Purpose-built trolleys/carriers should be provided for moving gas cylinders.
7. Welding operatives should be provided with, and use, adequate protective clothing/equipment. Proper records of issue of such equipment should also be kept.
8. Welding operations should be adequately screened or isolated from other workers/passers-by.