

University of Prince Edward Island Standard Operating Procedure	Revision No. 1
SOP Title: Transporting Compressed Gas Cylinders or Cryogenics by Elevator	
Creation Date: 13 February 2008	Version Date: 13 February 2008
Responsibility: UPEI Health and Safety Steering Committee	Review Date: 13 February 2013

1. INTRODUCTION

Because of the danger from escaping gases from faulty valves and because elevators are considered a confined space, all compressed gas cylinders shall be unaccompanied in the elevator.

This prohibition also applies to cryogenics in containers (e.g. liquid nitrogen) that, because of the gas generated during a spill or by the continuous container venting if the elevator were to fail for a prolonged period of time, could displace enough air in the elevator to create a suffocation hazard. In the case of cryogenics containers in volumes that can be easily carried, it may be safer and more expedient for the transporter to use the stairs. If a cryogenics container, e.g. large dewar, is too large to carry, it must be transported via the elevator unaccompanied, correctly secured, and with the appropriate warning sign, as for the procedure for compressed gas cylinders.

2. OBJECTIVE

To describe the proper and safe protocol for transporting compressed gas cylinders or cryogenics in elevators on UPEI campus.

3. RESPONSIBILITY

It is the responsibility of the UPEI Health and Safety Steering Committee to ensure that signs are posted regarding this procedure outside of elevators in plain sight for the protection of the general public.

It is the responsibility of each unit using cryogenics or compressed gas to post a sign on the unaccompanied dewar or cylinder during the transport in an elevator.

4. PRACTICE

- 4.1 Do not ride in an elevator with a compressed gas cylinder/dewar.
- 4.2 Secure compressed gas tank or dewar onto the appropriate truck/dolly using a restraining chain.
- 4.3 Place a warning sign in a clearly visible location on the cart. The sign should read: "Do Not Enter the Elevator. Gas Cylinder or Cryogen Container in Transit." If the elevator has 2 sets of doors, then 2 signs are needed.
- 4.4 Load the cylinder/container into an empty elevator. Ensure the warning signs face the doors.
- 4.5 Press the number for the destination floor and exit the elevator.
- 4.6 Take the stairs to meet the elevator or by previous arrangement, have a colleague meet the elevator on the destination floor.
- 4.7 Remove the cylinder/container from the elevator at the destination floor.

5. REFERENCES

Prince Edward Island *Occupational Health and Safety Act: General Regulations*, Part 13, Confined Space.

6. REVIEW

This document is to be reviewed every 5 years or more often as necessary.