



TOOL BOX 030- OPERATING SAFELY GAS REGULATORS

Opening and Closing Valves

1. The proper way to open any cylinder valve is to first crack the valve, then open it slowly by turning the handle counterclockwise. This allows equipment to gradually adjust to full pressure. Stop turning as soon as there is any resistance. Turning the valve handle or stem too far in the open position can jam the stem causing damage and leaks and preventing later closure. Likewise, over tightening when closing a valve can damage or permanently distort the seat and result in leakage.
2. Open and closed directions are marked with arrows on the valve handle

Regulator Installation

3. Use only the regulator designed for the gas being used. If the regulator is not the correct one, the connector will not fit. Do not force connections. There are four standard types of cylinder valve outlets to prevent interchanges of gas handling equipment between incompatible gases.
4. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment, safety glasses when installing regulators on gas cylinders.
5. Make sure the cylinder is tightly secured before removing the valve cap. Usually chained to the wall.
6. Visually check the regulator for evidence of damage or contamination and remove any foreign material before attaching the regulator.
7. If a regulator is dropped, it should be removed from service and sent to the supplier for servicing. **(DO NOT ATTEMPT TO REPAIR YOURSELF)**
8. When attaching the regulator, never use any oil or grease to lubricate the threads. Do not use Teflon tape. Use correct size spanner to tighten the connector securely. **(DO NOT USE ADJUSTABLE SPANNER " SHIFTER" IT DAMAGES THE CONNECTORS)**
9. Keep the cylinder between you and the regulator when opening the cylinder valve. Do not stand in front or behind the pressure gauges when applying pressure to the regulator.
10. Open the regulator's pressure adjusting valve counterclockwise until it feels free. Slowly open the cylinder valve. When the high pressure gauge indicates maximum pressure, open the cylinder valve fully.
11. Test the regulator and connection between the cylinder and the regulator for leaks. Use soapy water for argon, nitrogen, and helium.



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SEE ALSO TOOL BOX TALK 012 – GAS CYLINDERS AND FITTINGS.
TALK 023 - RE-PRESSURE WITH N2.

Presented By: Name: _____	Date _____	Signature _____
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