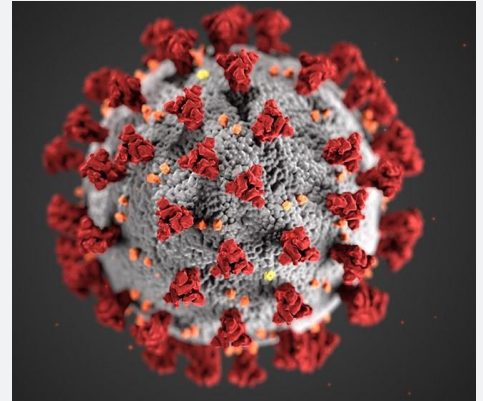


# Experiences and Lessons During Covid-19

Ellen Daniels  
CEO

British Compressed Gases Association

- Who are the BCGA?
- Key Issues During Covid-19
- BCGA Activity
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Publications
- Summary



# Who are we?



- Established 1901, BCGA since 1971
- £2.7Bn t/o, 19,000 employee sector
- 100+ Member companies:
  - Manufacturers and suppliers of bulk liquid and cylinder gases
  - Manufacturers of cylinders, vessels and tanks for their storage and distribution.
  - Manufacturers of equipment for controlling the application and use of gases.
  - Installers of distribution pipework and systems.
  - Providers of specialist safety, health, quality, inspection and training services.
- 116 Publications
- Staff of two- Ellen Daniels, CEO and Jake Lake, Technical Manager

# BCGA Committees



- TSC1 – Cryogenics, tanks & vessels
- TSC2 – Cylinders and valves
- TSC3 – Equipment (regulators, hoses etc.)
- TSC4 – Transport
- TSC5 – Chemistry and applications
- TSC6 – HASAG (Health and Safety Group)
- TSC7 – Medical gases
- TSC8 – Environment
- TSC9 – Hydrogen & other gaseous fuels
- TSC10 – Security
- Conference Committee
- WG's – e.g. Cylinders in Fires, Brexit

# What do we do?

- ✓ Provide information about all the latest news and updates in our industry
- ✓ Promote safety through our many publications
- ✓ Influence Government regulations, Standards and guidance
- ✓ Provide a technical advice and helpdesk for any issues in the UK
- ✓ Networking opportunities for members
- ✓ Build lobbying positions on behalf of industry
- ✓ Liaise with Government departments, other trade associations and organisations
- ✓ Run annual conference and webinars on specific topics for members
- ✓ Annual Industry Recognition Awards

## Webinar: Shaping the Future of the BCGA



Completed 27 August 2020

In the 30-minute webinar, new CEO Ellen Daniels invited conference attendees to listen in as she presented her vision for the future of the BCGA.

Delivering what should have been her presentation at BCGA's 2020 Conference, Ellen touched on where she sees the major challenges for the industry in the future, from Brexit to Coronavirus, and her priorities going forward- including the start of a digital transformation for the BCGA and the role of the association in STEM.

### BALLOONS and N<sub>2</sub>O



Often a balloon is filled, either direct from a gas cylinder or more commonly through a cartridge opening device, such as a 'Cracker'. The gas is then inflated from the balloon.

**A hazardous and irresponsible act**


When inhaled, N<sub>2</sub>O slows down brain and body responses, the effects will depend on a number of factors, including the quantity inhaled. Abuse may experience:

- feelings of euphoria, relaxation and calmness;
- fits of giggles and laughter;
- sexual distortions and hallucinations;
- in some cases, severe medical reactions, including death.

### CONSEQUENCES

The widespread abuse of N<sub>2</sub>O often operates alongside criminal activity. Cylinders are stolen from hospitals (with the consequences of non-availability of the gas for patients) and increased costs for the NHS in managing sales and security requirements. These are counterfeit cartridges made, some containing N<sub>2</sub>O, others a cheaper gas, which may be even more dangerous to abuse than N<sub>2</sub>O. These cartridges may not be made to the required standard and some have exploded unexpectedly! There is a growing band of street sellers who illegally sell the cartridges knowing that the gas will be abused.


N<sub>2</sub>O is not fun to take, it is not safe to abuse it in any way, especially through inhalation. There are serious direct and indirect side effects and there have been many deaths!




### ABUSE OF NITROUS OXIDE

### CARTRIDGES and N<sub>2</sub>O

These are two devices in common use for opening a cartridge:



A cream whipper used in the catering trade (in catering, the gas is combined with a cream mix).



A 'cracker' device whose sole purpose appears to be to open a cartridge and fill an attached balloon.

### CALL FOR RETAIL BAN

The increasing abuse of N<sub>2</sub>O, aided by the ease of obtaining and ready availability of cartridges, is a blight on our society. It is clear that numerous Members of Parliament, Local Authorities and other organisations share our concerns about this scourge on our society. This has led BCGA to call upon Government to combat this problem through introducing a straightforward ban on consumer sales.

For more information:  
British Compressed Gases Association (BCGA)  
[www.bcgga.co.uk/gpox2008](http://www.bcgga.co.uk/gpox2008)

Published: December 2020  
Produced by: BCGA  
ISSN: 2398-9394  
Registered in England - Company number 21378

Follow us on social media:  
British Compressed Gases Association  
[Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/bcggaassociation) [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/bcggaassociation) [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/bcggaassociation) [Twitter @bcggaassociation](https://twitter.com/bcggaassociation)

# Key Issues



- BCGA represents medical gas and related medical equipment manufacturers
- Presented significant challenges for the industry, including:
  - More oxygen cylinders into circulation
  - Concerns around workforce illness
  - Definition of a “critical business” and “key workers”
  - Vehicle MOTs
  - Medical certificates
  - Social distancing at sites

- ✓ Published Coronavirus Briefing for members
- ✓ Contacted Westminster and Whitehall on various issues, such as having industry recognised as critical, workers as key
- ✓ Wrote letters to:
  - ✓ Prime Minister Boris Johnson
  - ✓ Cabinet Office Minister Michael Gove
  - ✓ Secretary of State for Education Gavin Williamson MP
  - ✓ Devolved National Assemblies
- ✓ Joined the Alliance of Chemical Associations (ACA), welcomed by Government

# BCGA Activity



- ✓ Liaised with key industry groups
- ✓ MHRA granted easement to convert industrial oxygen cylinders to go to medical oxygen duty
- ✓ One of the industries to receive letter from BEIS Sec of State Alok Sharma MP



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP  
Secretary of State  
Department for Business,  
Energy & Industrial Strategy  
1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET

T +44 (0) 20 7215 6000  
E [enquiries@beis.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@beis.gov.uk)  
W [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

8 April 2020

#### To those working in manufacturing and industry in the UK

At this unprecedented time for the UK I want to pay tribute to you for the work you are doing to keep the UK economy going.

As you know, the Government's priority is saving lives and we have advised that where possible, people should stay at home and work from home. However, our country needs your support to keep supply chains moving and key workers mobile, as well as to protect the economy as much as possible. Every business has a role to play in helping the country defeat coronavirus.

Manufacturing is a critical part of our economy and I would like to be clear that **there is no restriction on manufacturing continuing under the current rules**. Guidelines from Public Health England provide best practice advice on how this can be done safely. Many across aerospace, chemical, automotive, steel, aluminium, pharmaceutical, packaging and other sectors, including those providing essential services and materials, have answered the call to action and are playing a direct role in combating COVID-19 by producing the material we need to fight the spread of the virus. It is vital that we ensure that servicing, parts and raw materials are available to keep vehicles and services on the road and operating. I would like to give you all my personal thanks for everything you are doing.

Those who cannot work from home and have to travel to work can continue to do so, consistent with the Chief Medical Officer's advice. I would remind both you and your employers that good practice on hand-washing and social distancing where possible remains an important part of efforts to keep COVID-19 from spreading, as explained in the latest [guidance on operating safely in the workplace](#). Further Government guidance is available on [GOV.UK](#).

As you know, the Chancellor has announced a far-reaching package to support businesses including government-backed and guaranteed loans, making available an initial £330bn of guarantees during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the Coronavirus Job Retention and VAT deferral schemes. I have also recently announced changes to insolvency rules, to help UK businesses which need financial rescue or restructuring to keep trading, and want to reassure you that we are working round the clock to protect our people and businesses. Please visit our business support webpage for further information: [gov.uk/business-support](http://gov.uk/business-support)

## Working safely during coronavirus (COVID-19)

[Give feedback about this page](#)

From:  
Published:  
Updated:

Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy  
11 May 2020  
11 May 2020, [see all updates](#)



- Selected to feed into Government social distancing in the workplace guidance
- Involved in discussions on workplace testing and vaccines
- Contacted by authorities in India, Pakistan and Columbia

## INTRODUCTION TO LFD TESTING IN WORKPLACES

Overview of approach  
11 January 2021

  
Test and Trace

### Trade body highlights technical guidance on oxygen to support the Covid-19 situation in India

The British Compressed Gases Association (BCGA) has shared details of its online assets, which provide information on the safe and effective handling of oxygen, to the UK government to cascade to Indian authorities.

The association's online 'Medical Gases' library provides a comprehensive resource, detailing the safe use of oxygen in a variety of circumstances.

Documents include Code of Practice 36, which includes information on the safe storage of bulk liquid oxygen.

Ellen Daniels, CEO of the British Compressed Gases Association, said: "A major element of the BCGA's work is to produce publications to ensure safety in use, and in transportation of, compressed gases.

"We draw on a bank of expertise both in BCGA membership and other industry specialists to create the information, and we hope it might help the Indian authorities.

"As well as focusing on safety, the guidance can help ensure that oxygen is relayed as effectively as possible to patients"

# Stakeholder Engagement



Medicines &  
Healthcare products  
Regulatory Agency



Department  
for Transport



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

# Key Publications



**BRITISH COMPRESSED GASES ASSOCIATION**  
Registered office: 4a Mallard Way, Pride Park, Derby, UK. DE24 8GX  
Company Number: 71798, England  
www.bcga.co.uk



## LEAFLET 13

### MEDICAL GASES - MEDICAL OXYGEN IN A VEHICLE

The purpose of this leaflet is to highlight key safety information for patients and drivers where medical oxygen cylinders or medical liquid oxygen equipment is used and / or transported for personal use in a vehicle. It is perfectly safe to both carry and use medical oxygen in a vehicle providing you follow the rules set out below. It is recommended that oxygen equipment is not left in an unattended vehicle.

#### Planning your journey

When planning your trip, ensure you have sufficient oxygen. Consider whether you may need additional oxygen in case you want to stay out a little longer or are held up in traffic. Alternatively, reduce the amount of oxygen carried by arranging to have supplies available at your destination. Have you got sufficient oxygen? If in doubt talk to your gas supplier.

#### Oxygen

Oxygen is necessary for anything to burn. If the amount of oxygen in the air is increased objects burn more readily and more fiercely. In confined spaces, such as a poorly ventilated vehicle, if your clothing, the seats or the carpets become enriched with oxygen, they will catch fire more easily. It only needs an ignition source, such as someone smoking or an electrical fault, to start a fire. If you or your passenger(s) need to use medical oxygen, take care not to allow oxygen levels to rise.

#### Avoid the risk of fire



**Smoking and sources of ignition**  
Do not smoke, use electronic cigarettes or other portable electronic devices, in a vehicle when carrying or using oxygen. This includes everybody - not just the user or the driver. Do not charge electronic devices in the vehicle.



**Ventilation**  
Make sure you have good ventilation to avoid creating an oxygen-enriched environment. The best way to improve ventilation is to open a window.



**Liquid oxygen**  
Take extra care with liquid oxygen containers. They continually vent cold oxygen gas (even when not in use) and could leak liquid if not kept upright. Secure the container upright and open windows to stop the oxygen building up.



**Refuelling the vehicle**  
Avoid using oxygen while your vehicle is being refuelled. Close the cylinder valve before refuelling and close any windows near the refuelling point. Do not connect / disconnect electric vehicles for recharging when using oxygen.

#### Keep your cylinders secure



**Cylinder restraint**  
Ensure cylinders that are in use are securely stowed and located within easy reach of the user. If provided, use a carrying bag or box to assist in securing the cylinder. If involved in an accident you could be injured by unsecured items being thrown around inside the vehicle.



**Cylinder security**  
If it is necessary to leave oxygen equipment in an unattended vehicle, position out of sight, away from direct sunlight in a ventilated area. There have been many cases where opportunists thieves have stolen cylinders and oxygen equipment.



**Turn it off when not in use**  
Keep the valves closed on any cylinder not in use.



**Cylinder storage**  
Cylinders that are not in use should be secured in the luggage area with their valves closed.

#### Driver and vehicle owner responsibilities

##### Legal requirements:

It is the driver's responsibility to ensure the vehicle is safe. The driver shall ensure that any oxygen equipment is carried safely even if the driver is not the user or the patient's carer.



##### Document:

The driver does not need to carry any special documents to transport medical oxygen. However, it is useful to have the right information to assist the emergency services in the event of an incident. Refer to 'Helping the emergency services'.



##### Signs on your vehicle

As you are only carrying small quantities of medical oxygen, you are not required to display any hazard warning labels or signs on your vehicles.



##### Insurance of your vehicle

Make sure you have informed your insurance company that you are carrying medical oxygen in your vehicle.

To prevent inadvertent actions being taken, the Emergency Services have indicated they would prefer patients: not to display hazard diamond labels or other signs which indicate that you may have medical gases in your vehicle. It is illegal to display hazard diamond labels if you are not carrying medical gases in the vehicle.

#### Suspected medical oxygen container leaks

If you suspect that there is a leak from your medical oxygen cylinder, take the following immediate actions:

- Close the cylinder valve (if safe to do so) and increase the ventilation in the vehicle.
- If you have a liquid leak. Do not touch the liquid it will give you cold burns.
- If the leak continues, park the vehicle in a safe location, away from naked flames and flammable substances. Do not smoke or allow anybody to smoke within 3 metres of the vehicle.
- Remove the leaking cylinder from the vehicle and place in a safe, well-ventilated area.
- If you cannot stop the leak, wait until the gas has vented and the cylinder is empty before collecting the cylinder. Do not return a leaking cylinder into the vehicle.
- Ensure that the vehicle has been adequately ventilated before re-entering the vehicle.

If additional help is required, contact your medical oxygen supplier for advice.

#### Helping the emergency services

The emergency services attending an accident or incident should be advised that the vehicle is carrying medical oxygen.

They will want to know whether you are carrying cylinders, liquid oxygen or both, how many cylinders and/or liquid oxygen containers are in the vehicle as well as their size and location.

For information, the UN classification (which includes ADR) for these products are:

- Medical oxygen in cylinders, UN 1072, OXYGEN COMPRESSED.
- Medical liquid oxygen, UN 1073, OXYGEN, REFRIGERATED LIQUID.

Class 2.2 non-toxic, non-flammable compressed gas; Class 5.1 oxidising agent.



# Key Publications



**GUIDANCE NOTE 29**

**MEDICAL GASES  
THE MANAGEMENT OF MEDICAL  
OXYGEN IN DOMICILIARY USE**

**2020**

# Summary



- Communication is key
- Always maintain best practice and safety
- Lots of other factors impacting industry during crisis- vehicles e.g. MOTs, worker illness, international travel

Thank you! Any Questions?

[Ellen.Daniels@bcga.co.uk](mailto:Ellen.Daniels@bcga.co.uk)

<https://www.bcga.co.uk/pages/index.cfm>