Cooperation between management and employees is vital to the success of every company. By working together toward the common goal—SAFETY IN WELDING—everyone wins!

Welders and their supervisors should have adequate safety training.

DO NOT WELD OR CUT containers unless they are properly cleaned. This is extremely hazardous.

DO NOT WELD OR CUT painted, plated, or coated parts unless special precautions with ventilation have been taken. They can release highly toxic fumes or gases. Painted parts can release toxic hydrocarbons, chromates, or lead compounds. Plated and coated parts can release toxic cadmium or zinc fumes.

CONFINED SPACE operations require special attention to ventilation as well as entry and exit procedures.

DO NOT EXCEED GAS REGULATOR PRESSURES recommended by the equipment supplier.

STORE CYLINDERS in accordance with National Fire Protection Association standards and local fire codes.

Refer to the references listed inside the front cover for directions on how to deal with such special situations.

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WELDING SPARKS can cause fire or explosion. Connect the work cable to the work as close to the welding area as practical. Work cables connected to metalwork being welded should be insulated and secured to prevent accidental contact. Sparks and spatter are thrown from the welding arc. Wear oil-free protective garments such as leather gloves, heavy shirt, cuffless trousers, high shoes and a cap over your hair. Wear ear plugs when welding. When not welding, make certain no part of the electrode circuit is touching the work or ground. Accidental contact can cause overheating and create a fire hazard.

Where compressed gases are to be used at the job site, special precautions should be used to prevent electric shock. Valve protection caps should always be in place and hand tight except when the cylinder is in use. Never allow the electrode, electrode holder or any other electrically "hot" parts to touch a cylinder. Cylinders should be located so that the drafts blow across your face and not from back to front, or front to back. Keep your head out of the fumes (See ANSI Z49.1, address inside front cover) In a large room or outdoors, natural ventilation may be adequate if you use enough ventilation or exhaust at the arc, or both, to keep fumes and gases from your breathing zone and the general area.

DO NOT use cables that are too small, damaged, or poorly spliced. BE SURE equipment is turned OFF when not in use. BE SURE to stay dry; do not weld when you are wet. BE SURE welding machine is properly grounded. BE SURE damaged parts are repaired or replaced. BE SURE equipment is adequate for the job. BE SURE you are insulated from live electrical parts. BE SURE that all installation, operation, maintenance and repair procedures ARE PERFORMED ONLY BY QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS.

DO NOT TOUCH LIVE ELECTRICAL PARTS. DO NOT USE OXYGEN for ventilation. Avoid oxygen enriched atmospheres. In confined areas, ventilation must be adequate to keep airborne contaminants below allowable limits and to prevent insufficient or excess oxygen. Threshold Limit Values.,” American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, 1330 Kemper Meadow Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45240-4148. Requirements of the OSHAct are given in Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1910 Subpart Q, available from the U.S. Government Printing Office, 732 North Capitol St NW, Washington, DC 20401, and the booklet, “TLVs, Threshold Limit Values,” American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, 1330 Kemper Meadow Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45240-4148. For further information, refer to American National Standard Z49.1, Safety in Welding, Cutting, and Allied Processes, American Welding Society, 550 N.W. LeJeune Road, Miami FL 33126. As in most trades, welders are exposed to certain hazards. Hazards exist with all arc welding and allied processes. Your Safety Director or Supervisor should be consulted when specific questions arise.

FUMES AND GASES from welding can easily go through small cracks and openings to adjacent areas. Avoid contact with skin. When welding in confined areas, adequate ventilation is necessary to maintain a safe environment. A properly functioning ventilation system should be used. Fume extractors can provide adequate ventilation to protect welders operating in small spaces.


For further information, refer to American National Standard Z49.1, Safety in Welding, Cutting, and Allied Processes, American Welding Society, 550 N.W. LeJeune Road, Miami FL 33126.