




HSE Advice to BDSG Members on carriage of SCUBA cylinders.

The carriage of SCUBA cylinders (or any breathing apparatus cylinders) by private individuals for personal use is exempt from the provisions of the Carriage of Dangerous Goods legislation provided that measures have been taken to prevent any leakage of contents in normal conditions of carriage.

If cylinders are to be carried by someone who is at work, there is a requirement to carry at least one 2kg dry powder fire extinguisher in the vehicle. The rest of the regulations do not apply as long as the combined capacity of the cylinders is 1000 litres or less (which would allow the carriage of up to 83 twelve litre cylinders).

Cylinders must be labelled if they are to be used or filled at work. The labels must show, in clearly legible and durable characters, the UN number and the proper shipping name of the gas or mixture of gases. Hazard labels should also be attached to the cylinder.

HSE recommends the following label formats are used:

UN 1002		UN 1002	
Air, Compressed		Air, Compressed	
UN 1072		UN 1072	
Oxygen, Compressed		Oxygen, Compressed	
UN 3156		Mixture of:	M.O.D:
Compressed Gas Oxidizing N.O.S. (Nitrox/Trimix/Heliox)		--- % Oxygen	
		--- % Nitrogen	
		--- % Helium	

Note – If the Trimix/Heliox has an Oxygen content of 21% or less, then the label needs to show UN No 1956 - "Compressed Gas N.O.S.". The yellow hazard diamond (oxidizing gas) would not be required.