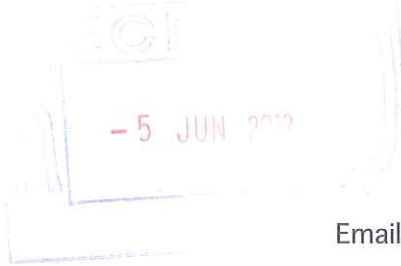


BOC Healthcare
Customer Service Centre
Priestley Road
Worsley, Manchester
M28 2UT

25th May 2012



Tel: 0800 111 333
Fax: 0800 111 555
Email: bochealthcare-uk@boc.com

Dear customer

New, improved look for medical gas cylinders

The MHRA have approved a proposed change to the appearance of medical gas cylinders, which will bring significant benefits for the safeguard of patients. In the future it is proposed that all medical gas cylinders will have a white body and carry the product name and the chemical formula for the gas on the body. The MHRA has given all medical gas cylinder suppliers until 2025 to complete the change. There will be no change to the gas colour identification which will remain on the shoulder of the cylinder, or the colour coded collars that BOC use on its cylinders. BOC Healthcare's integral valve oxygen, ENTONOX and HELIOX21 cylinders already have this "new look" with a white body and the name printed on the body and are an example of the type of appearance that will be gradually applied to all medical gas cylinders.

At the same time, BOC is taking the opportunity to improve the finish on its cylinders as part of the change. Small 2 litre and 10 litre cylinders will be fitted with a robust protective sleeve. Cylinders over 10 litres will have an improved paint finish.

What benefits will this bring?

- The white body will clearly distinguish a medical gas cylinder from any other non-medical gas cylinder to minimise confusion and the possibility of administering the wrong type of gas to a patient.
- A clear visible product name will make it easier and more convenient for the healthcare professional to identify the correct type of gas. However, BOC would still recommend that the collar label on the cylinder is also checked for the product name, prior to patient administration.
- The presence of a product name on the cylinder will also prevent total reliance on colours to distinguish a cylinder which can be an issue for any operative who may be "colour-blind".
- The improvements in paint finish and addition of protective sleeves will mean that future cylinders provided to healthcare customers will look cleaner and will maintain a higher quality of finish for longer.

Which cylinders will be going white?

You will appreciate that BOC Healthcare, as the largest supplier to the UK market has a significant population of cylinders. It will therefore be necessary to introduce these changes on a phased basis. In order to minimise the inconvenience of these changes, the MHRA has approved an extended conversion period which will mean medical gas cylinders can be supplied in both colour schemes. The enclosed identification chart provides information for those involved in handling or using medical gas cylinders to help them understand the changes.

Should you have any queries regarding this change please contact a customer advisor on 0161 930 6010.

Yours faithfully



Gloria Jennings
Product Manager .BOC Healthcare

New “White” appearance for medical gas cylinders.



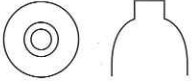
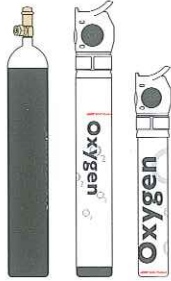
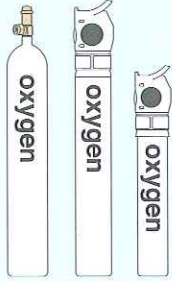


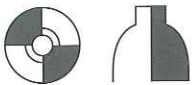
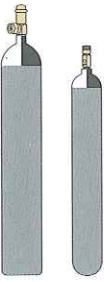



New "White" appearance for medical gas cylinders.

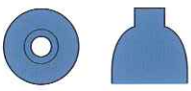
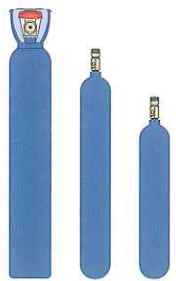
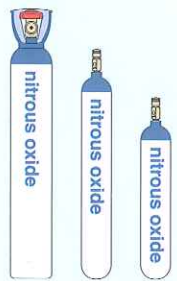

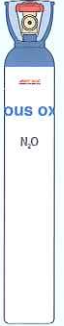
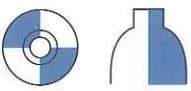



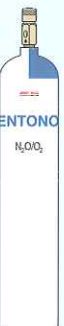
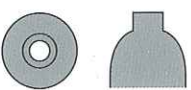
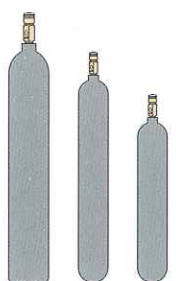
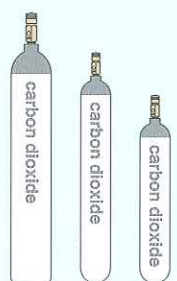
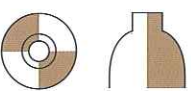




To improve identification of medical gas cylinders and bring them in line with European standards, the MHRA has approved changes to the colour coding of cylinders to reduce the risk of administering the wrong gas to the patient. In future, to distinguish medical gas cylinders from non-medical cylinders, the medical cylinder bodies will be white. The shoulder colours will not change, and these will identify the individual gases. Cylinders will also carry the name of the medical gas in large letters on the cylinder body to help identification.

In order to minimise the inconvenience of these changes, the MHRA has approved an extended conversion period which will mean medical gas cylinders can be supplied in both colour schemes. This identification chart provides information for those involved in handling or using medical gas cylinders to help them understand the changes.

Cylinder identification chart

In order to help you compare and identify cylinders more easily, during this long period of change please refer to the visual identities below for reference.

Medical Gas	Shoulder colour(s) NO CHANGE	Body - small cylinders Old style	Body - small cylinders Future "New style"	Body - large cylinders Old style	Body - Large cylinders Future "New style"
Medical oxygen	White 				
Medical air	Black/white quarters 				

Medical Gas	Shoulder colour(s) NO CHANGE	Body – small cylinders Old style	Body – small cylinders Future "New style"	Body – large cylinders Old style	Body – Large cylinders Future "New style"
Medical nitrous oxide	Blue 				
ENTONOX (50% oxygen/ 50% nitrous oxide)	Blue/white quarters 				
Medical carbon dioxide	Grey 				
HELIOX 21 (oxygen 21%/ helium 79%)	Brown/white quarters 				

Contact us.

Our customer service centre is open 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

BOC Healthcare

Customer Service Centre, Priestley Road, Worsley, Manchester M28 2UT, United Kingdom
Tel 0800 111 333, Fax 0800 111 555, bohealthcare-uk@boc.com, www.bohealthcare.co.uk

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