

Photograph 1.



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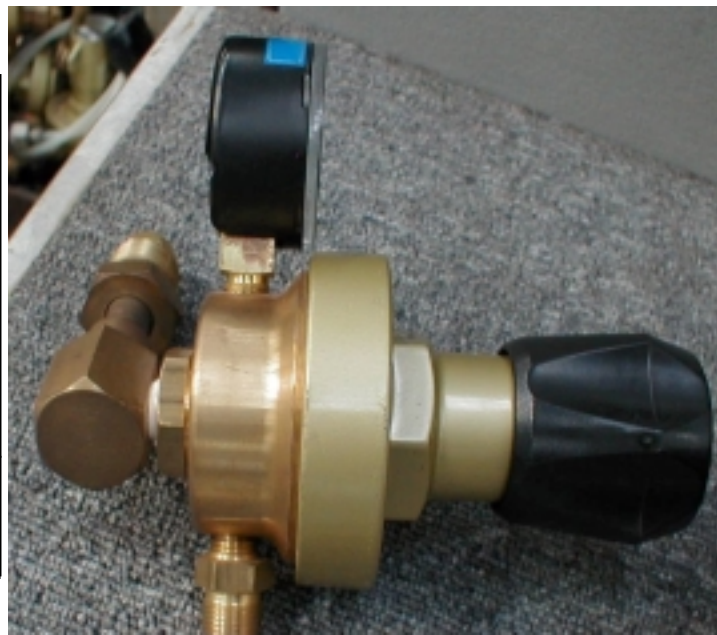
GAS SAFETY UK - CLIENT UPDATE FOR OCTOBER 2002.

UNDER PRESSURE?!

Photograph 1 (above) and Photograph 2 (below) are prime examples of the unsafe modification of gas control equipment. These examples were discovered during our annual audit and inspection of regulators at the site of one of our clients. It may be clearly seen that in both cases, pipeline outlet regulators with a maximum working pressure of 200 psi have been modified for cylinder mounting & would, therefore, have been subjected to pressures of 3,000 psi or more!

Photograph 2.

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Photograph 3 (below) are some of the remains from a recent mishap which occurred when an attempt was made to re-fill a small nitrogen cylinder. Clearly, cylinder re-filling (or decanting) is not recommended practice unless specialist equipment, training, etc. are in place. However, in the example below, failure to danger occurred during filling because of a mis-match between the donor and the recipient. The recipient cylinder was from the U.S.A. &, as you'd expect, came equipped with a CGA 580 type outlet to it's valve. On the other hand, the donor filling line terminated in a standard U.K. nitrogen (BS 341 No. 3) type fitting. This was similar in outward appearance to it's American counterpart - but, sadly, not the same! From the outset, this operation (however well intended at the time) was doomed to miserable failure.

Both of the cases highlighted in this month's 'Update' have underscored the misguided tendency of some people to 'lash' things together. Whilst it is plausible that such actions may stem from blissful ignorance - even to the point of ignoring the regulator labels of 200 psi and the nature of high pressure gases (let alone that these regulators were for hydrogen and oxygen use), another root cause seems more likely; thrift. We are continuously battered with requests to save money, to recycle materials and the like alongside a well entrenched tendency in many individuals to 'make do & mend'. Perhaps, then, it should come as no surprise that the results of such creative & potentially destructive activities may be discovered from time to time?

Photograph 3.

