NHS Lothian Safe Use of Medicines Policy & Procedures – January 2018

28.15 Appendix 5 - Product Hazard Data Information

Handling Equanox

Equanox is a mixture of 50% Oxygen and 50% Nitrous Oxide.

Main Hazards:

- x Should be stored in conditions between 10°C and 39°C. If these temperatures cannot be maintained, bring to room temperature and invert cylinder several times.
- Stored in cylinders under pressure (normally 137bar or 2,000psi)
- x Has a sweetish odour and is heavier than air so will collect in confined spaces.
- x Strong oxidant, will cause things to burn more rapidly.
- × Will react violently with oils or grease.
- × Will cause narcotic effects.
- Can cause a cold burn by rapid expansion of gas if opened onto skin.
- x Cylinders in a fire may rupture and explode, feeding the fire.

Main Precautions:

- Use only Equanox specific equipment on this gas cylinder
- * Before attaching regulators ensure the valve is clean and has no oils or grease or other contaminants including substances from your hands such as petroleum jelly or hand creams.
- * There is a great deal of stored energy inside the gas cylinder so open the valve slowly.
- * If you transport by car, always store it securely in the boot with the valve shut. DO not transport within the passenger compartment as leaks may impair your judgement as Equanox is a powerful analgesic and mild anaesthetic.
- * Store securely inside the boot, ensure the cylinder does not move about either by using a bracket or keeping the cylinder immobile in an appropriate padded storage bag.
- * If the cylinder leaks, evacuate the vehicle. Ensure adequate ventilation and eliminate sources of ignition.
- * Leaks will collect at low level, as Equanox is heavier than air. Gas can be quickly dispersed by flow of fresh air.
- * Keep the cylinder away from other flammable
- * Do not smoke or have any other source of ignition when using this gas.
- * Ensure adequate ventilation.

Emergency Phone No 0800 0567 345

Handling Oxygen

Main Hazards:

- Store in cylinder under pressure (normally 137 bar or 2,000 psi)
- × Gas is colourless, odourless and tasteless.
- × Gas is slightly heavier than air.
- Strongly supports combustion, will cause things to burn more rapidly.
- x Above 23% in atmosphere normally flammables may catch fire.
- × Above 27% non-flammables may burn.
- x Oils, greases etc will react violently with oxygen.
- x Cylinders in a fire may rupture and explode, feeding the fire.

Main Precautions:

- * Use only specified equipment on the gas cylinder
- * Before attaching regulators ensure the valve is clean and has no oils or grease or other contaminants including substances from your hands such as petroleum jelly or hand creams.
- * There is a great deal of stored energy inside the gas cylinder so open the valve slowly.
- * If you transport this in your car, always store it securely in the boot with the valve shut. Do not transport inside the car as leaks may impair your judgement.
- * Store securely inside the boot, ensure the cylinder does not move about on travelling.
- * If the cylinder leaks, evacuate the area, ensure adequate ventilation and eliminate sources of ignition.
- * Leaks will collect at low level, as the gas is heavier than air, these can be quickly dispersed by flow of fresh air.
- * Keep the cylinder away from other flammable gases.
- * Do not smoke or have any sources of ignition when using this gas.
- * Ensure adequate ventilation.

Emergency Phone No 0800 0567 345