

Self-inspection checklist

Welding, cutting and brazing

- Do you allow only authorized and trained personnel to use welding, cutting, or brazing equipment?
- Are compressed gas cylinders regularly examined for signs of defect, deep rusting, or leakage?
- Are cylinders kept away from sources of heat?
- Are employees prohibited from using cylinders as rollers or supports?
- Are empty cylinders appropriately marked, their valves closed, and valve-protection caps placed on them?
- Are signs posted that read “DANGER — NO SMOKING, MATCHES, OR OPEN LIGHTS,” or the equivalent?
- Are cylinders, cylinder valves, couplings, regulators, hoses, and apparatus kept free of oily or greasy substances?
- Unless secured on special trucks, are regulators removed and valve-protection caps put in place before moving cylinders?
- Do cylinders without fixed hand wheels have keys, handles, or nonadjustable wrenches on stem valves when in service?
- Are liquefied gases stored and shipped with the valve end up and with valve covers in place?
- Before a regulator is removed, is the valve closed and gas then released from the regulator?
- Is open circuit (no load) voltage of arc welding and cutting machines as low as possible and not more than the recommended limit?
- Are electrodes removed from holders when not in use?
- Are employees required to shut off the electric power to the welder when no one is using it?
- Is suitable fire-extinguishing equipment available for immediate use?
- Are welders forbidden to coil or loop welding electrode cable around their bodies?

- Is work and electrode lead cable frequently inspected for wear and damage and replaced when needed?
- Do the means for connecting cable lengths have adequate insulation?
- When the object to be welded cannot be moved and fire hazards cannot be removed, are shields used to confine heat, slag, and sparks?
- Are fire watchers assigned when welding or cutting is performed in locations where a fire might develop?
- When welding is done on metal walls, are precautions taken to protect combustibles on the other side?
- Before hot work begins, are drums, barrels, tanks, and other containers thoroughly cleaned and tested so that no substances remain that could explode, ignite, or produce toxic vapors?
- Do eye-protection helmets, hand shields, and goggles meet appropriate standards?
- Do employees use appropriate PPE when exposed to the hazards of welding, cutting, or brazing operations?
- Do you check for adequate ventilation where welding or cutting is performed?
- When welders work in confined spaces is the atmosphere monitored and is there a means for their quick evacuation in an emergency?
- Are regulator-pressure adjusting screws released when welding or cutting is stopped for an extended period of time?