

CP7/CP47: All you need to know about our safety inspections

Here are our most frequently asked questions about the safety inspections that we offer. If your question is not answered here, please contact us on **0800 111 333** or email us at gassafety@boc.com

Why should I have a CP7 or CP47 inspection?

Put in simple terms, it is a legal requirement to ensure that equipment used in the workplace is in a safe condition and is inspected regularly where required. As an employer or person of responsibility, it is vital that you understand the obligations you have and how to comply with them. More detail on some of the legal requirements can be found in the answers detailed below.

What are the legal requirements?

Section 2 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 states that an employer or self-employed person has a responsibility to provide and maintain plant and systems of work that are, so far as reasonably practical, safe and without risk to health.

Statutory Instrument 1998 No. 2306: The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 requires that the user of an installed gas system and the owner of a mobile gas system shall ensure that the system is properly maintained in good repair to prevent danger.

DSEAR Regs (Dangerous Substances & Explosive Atmosphere Regulations) 2002 (SI 2002 No.2776): employers must put control measures in place to eliminate risks from dangerous substances, or reduce them as far as is reasonably practicable. This includes maintenance of equipment and fitting of flashback arrestors.

The Acetylene Safety (England and Wales and Scotland) Regulations require that all mobile systems shall be fitted with a purpose designed regulator for acetylene, a flashback arrestor incorporating a non-return valve and a pressure and/or temperature sensitive cut-off valve. When using acetylene, you must ensure that these legal obligations are met.

The British Compressed Gases Association (BCGA) code of Practice 7 (CP7): The Safe Use of Oxy-fuel Gas Equipment (Individual Portable or Mobile Cylinder Supply) and Code of Practice 47 (CP47) The Safe Use of Individual Portable or Mobile Cylinder Gas Supply Equipment, provide guidance on maintenance and recommend, for example, that regulators and flashback arrestors are checked annually, both visually and functionally, by a competent person and replaced every five years.

Statutory Instrument 2000 No. 128: The Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000 requires equipment to be examined regularly. HSE has advised owners and users of portable oxy-fuel welding and cutting sets that Written Schemes of Examination (Report of Thorough Examination) are not required. However, HSE emphasises that, although gas welding sets are not considered to pose a risk from the release of stored energy, they do pose a risk of fire or explosion if they are not assembled, operated or maintained correctly.

The Construction (Design & Management) Regulations (CDM 2015) are the main set of regulations for managing the health, safety and welfare of construction projects. CDM applies to all building and construction work and includes new build, demolition, refurbishment, extensions, conversions, repair and maintenance.

What will your inspector do, and what should I expect?

Our inspector will report on your system using a Report of Thorough Examination, which provides written evidence that you are proactively following and carrying out H&SE requirements, and a certificate will be issued when the equipment is compliant. This evidence may also be required for insurance purposes.

The rigorous checks carried out by our BTEC Award for BOC ICGEIT Qualified Inspectors, as part of our inspection process, include identification and reporting of:

- Any internal malfunction of the equipment.
- Faults detected which have been caused by using incorrect flow rates, which could result in damage to sensitive equipment.
- The correct operation of any internal components.
- Any situation which could result in a mix of gases in the cutting nozzle, torch or hose (which could potentially result in a back fire or flashback causing a fire in the cylinder).
- The correct equipment fitting for the application or process being carried out, to ensure that efficient and therefore cost-effective use of gas is delivered.

Full leak testing is also carried out on each part as well as the whole system.

In addition, the BTEC Award for BOC ICGEIT CP7 inspection process involves not only the testing of the individual parts of the set, but a light up and shut down procedure check, to ensure that all equipment is functioning correctly and safely.

Upon completion, and to provide confirmation to our customers, copies of inspection sheets and certificates are supplied, and the equipment is tagged to confirm the safety check has been carried out and to give a reminder of the next inspection due date.

What will your inspector need from me?

All that our inspector will require is access to your equipment and a safe environment to work within. A risk assessment will be conducted; however, we will need to be made aware of any local safety requirements for your premises. You will need to be available after the inspection to review the results, so that we can advise you of any recommendations.

What makes your inspectors different?

Our inspectors undertake the most in-depth training in the industry. This incorporates 40 hours of training, and they are assessed and verified to Edexcel level 2 BTEC standard. This includes computer-based learning, classroom modules and in-depth practical work in our workshops. The final part of their training includes a supervised inspection at a customer's premises. This makes our training unique and the best in the industry.

These inspections sound expensive?

BOC offers safety inspections to our customers primarily as a safety service, and therefore our prices are competitive and extremely good value for money. The consequences of not having a system in place to ensure equipment is maintained in a safe condition and used safely can be very expensive and detrimental to any business.

I don't use my equipment much - do I need a safety inspection?

Yes, some components can become faulty even if not used and, in some cases, it might be more important to inspect equipment that is not used regularly. Equipment such as regulators and flashback arrestors are date stamped or coded and should not be used after the date shown.

What happens if my equipment fails the inspection or is unsafe to use?

Don't worry, in most cases our inspector will be able to resolve the issue on the day and give you a pass certificate. Our inspectors carry a full range of equipment with them, avoiding the need to revisit you to perform a second inspection.

I have some other questions about using, storing and transporting gas cylinders - can your inspector help?

Yes, our inspectors are experienced and can help you with any local safety related issues you may have. If they are unable to answer your question on the day, they will advise you of the action that needs to be taken and will help you to resolve the issue as soon as possible.

Where can I get further information?

Our prime concern is our customer's safety and our website is a great place to start. Visit www.BOCOnline.co.uk/safetyinspection to find out more. You can also contact us on 0800 111 333 or email us at our dedicated email address gassafety@boc.com

For external information regarding gas safety information, The British Compressed Gas Association (BCGA) is a good source – you can visit their website at www.bgca.co.uk. Most of the information you are likely to need is free, including the codes of practice CP7 & CP47 which can be downloaded free of charge. A copy of the DSEAR regulations is available at www.hse.gov.uk

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