



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Office of Hazardous
Materials Safety
Western Region

3401 Centrelake Drive
Suite 5508
Ontario, CA 91761

**Pipeline and Hazardous
Materials Safety Administration**

December 8, 2012

RE: Compressed Gas Cylinders that do not meet DOT Specifications

Dear Sir/Madame:

You are receiving this letter because PHMSA's records indicate that you purchased welding kits on EBay. The kits contain two (2) high pressure cylinders stenciled with white lettering on the bottom side wall of the cylinder with "Made in China." The cylinders have markings that do not identify the type of cylinder or the service pressure. The cylinders are similar in appearance to DOT 3A or 3AA and DOT 8A (steel) cylinders, which would commonly contain oxygen and acetylene used in oxyacetylene welding. These cylinders do not meet United States Department of Transportation (US DOT) specifications. These cylinders were not manufactured by an authorized manufacturer in accordance with the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR), and are not authorized for hazardous materials service in the United States. See 49 C.F.R. § 173.301 (a) & (b). Over 300 of these "look-alike" cylinders were sold between July 2011 and August 2012. Please see attached photographs for identification.

If you have any of these cylinders in your possession, do not have them filled with hazardous materials. Anyone who fills non-DOT high pressure cylinders with a hazardous material has committed a violation of the HMR. See 49 C.F.R. §§ 173.301 (a) & (b), 173.302, 173.303(a), and 178.60. Such a violation carries significant civil penalties and may trigger criminal prosecution. The welding kit cylinders have not undergone any known safety testing or inspections and may not possess the structural integrity to safely contain its contents under pressure during normal use and in transportation. Extensive property damage, serious personal injury, and/or death could result from a rupture of one of these cylinders.

Sean Lynum
Director, Western Region

Enclosure



