

RESPIRATORY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

SUBJECT: MEDICAL GAS SHUT-OFF VALVES

POLICY:

The facility utilizes shut-off/zone valves to enable health care providers to interrupt medical gas flows in the event of an emergency or disaster.

DEFINITION:

Valves that are connected in the medical gas system specifically to isolate one or more areas for reasons such as emergencies (i.e., fire), piping maintenance or system expansion.

PROCEDURES:

Assessable shut-off valves must be labeled in content as follows to avoid unauthorized use

CAUTION - (name of medical gas valve)

DO NOT CLOSE EXCEPT IN EMERGENCY

This valve controls _____ (name of gas)

supply to _____ (area affected) .

1. In areas where the shut-off valves are accessible to un authorized personnel, the shut-off valves must be installed in valve boxes with frangible or removable windows, large enough to permit manual manipulation of the valves.
2. A zone (branch) valve in the main supply line in any location must be accessible for closure in an emergency.
3. Each riser from the main supply line must have a zone valve adjacent to the riser connection.
4. Patient outlets must not be supplied directly off a riser unless supplied through the manual shut-off valve located on the same story in which the outlet is located.
5. Each lateral branch line serving patient rooms must have a zone valve to control the gas flow to the patients' rooms.
6. A zone valve must be placed on each branch that supplies gas to a patient care area. This valve must be located in the main corridor of the area served and easily operated from a standing position. Zone valves must be arranged that shutting off the supply of gas to one designated branch will not affect the supply of gas to the rest of the system.
7. A pressure gauge must be provided downstream of each zone valve of each lateral branch off the riser.

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8. For isolation purposes, the existing systems piping maintenance or extending to new piping systems in-line shut-off valves are permitted. These valves must be labeled with:
 - A. The source gas;
 - B. Words "DO NOT CLOSE EXCEPT IN EMERGENCY"; and
 - C. The area supplied.
9. In-line shut-off valves must be located in a secure area or locked in an open position.
10. Pressures other than the normal 50-55 psig must be labeled at the connection point (i.e., pipeline, shut-off valve or patient outlet).
11. All new or replacement valves must be a quarter turn type valve that are clearly marked for handling.