



PREVENTION OF TOW-AWAY INCIDENTS

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Preface

As part of a programme of harmonisation of industry standards, the European Industrial Gases Association (EIGA), publication, *"Prevention of Tow-away Incidents"*, has been used as the basis of an internationally harmonised gas association's publication on this subject.

This publication is intended as an international harmonised publication for the worldwide use and application by all members of Asia Industrial Gases Association (AIGA), Compressed Gas Association (CGA), EIGA, and Japan Industrial and Medical Gases Association (JIMGA). Regional editions have the same technical content as the EIGA edition, however, there are editorial changes primarily in formatting, units used and spelling. Also, any references to regional regulatory requirements are those that apply to European requirements.

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Amendments to 63/14

	This publication is republished by all Associations with no changes
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1 Introduction

Before moving a bulk delivery vehicle, the failure to disconnect the product delivery hose(s) that connects the vehicle to a storage tank or utilisation point can lead to a serious incident.

A tow-away incident occurs when flexible hose(s) used to transfer product between a delivery vehicle and stationary equipment is not disconnected prior to moving the vehicle. When this occurs, flexible hoses and the interconnecting piping can be damaged or fail.

Moving the vehicle while delivery hose(s) are still connected to fixed equipment creates the potential for equipment damage and a hazardous atmosphere. Personal injury can be caused due to:

- a large quantity of gas or liquid under pressure being released by the ruptured hose(s) and the production of a potentially hazardous atmosphere (oxygen enriched or deficient) that can lead to cold burns, asphyxiation, fire or explosion; and
- if the hose(s) resists the pulling effort and does not break, the vehicle can, in certain cases, pull away part or the whole of the fixed equipment or damage the delivery vehicle pipework.

Such incidents can lead to disruption of service.

2 Scope and purpose

The primary objective of this publication is to recommend practical methods for preventing road vehicles being moved away while still connected to fixed equipment. It supports compliance with the relevant requirements of existing regulations and standards.

This publication is also applicable to vehicles carrying cryogenic receptacles that are filled or emptied into a fixed installation while on board the vehicle.

Prevention of tow-away incidents of rail transportation is not discussed in this publication. However, the principles discussed may be appropriate in some cases.

This publication also covers breakaway couplings which minimize the consequences of tow-aways, should they occur. These devices may be considered for use for transfilling from both road vehicles and rail wagons.

3 Definitions

For the purpose of this publication, the following definitions apply.

3.1 Publication Terminology

3.1.1 Shall

Indicates that the procedure is mandatory. It is used wherever the criterion for conformance to specific recommendations allows no deviation.

3.1.2 Should

Indicates that a procedure is recommended.

3.1.3 May

Indicates that the procedure is optional.