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Your reference

Your message of

-18

Our reference

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## UK Fire Service protocol for Acetylene cylinder fires

Dear Mr. Kuhn,  
dear Mr. Thornton,

BAM is now completing its work and collates its reporting (to the co-funding sponsors) of the Phase III Acetylene research project on single cylinders. We have been asked for a comment about the HazMat guidance and in particular about the new protocol which has been suggested, i. e. the 1 hour cooling plus 1 hour monitoring regime.

We have consistently said that we will not tell the UK Fire Service what they should do, nor can we in any sense guarantee safety. However, from all our experiments, experience and modelling work we believe the suggested protocol is sound for single acetylene cylinders (no batteries and bundles) and will not lead to any significant lessening of Firefighter safety as compared to the existing UK guidance.

The second (monitoring) hour of the proposed scheme should mainly be seen as precautionary measure. It is very unlikely that any adverse signs of re-heating of a cylinder will be seen in the monitoring phase. Neither do we expect that any dangerous situation could develop within the 15 minute gaps between suggested checking (by Thermal Imaging, IR or "wetting test"). If there is any uncertainty about this the firemen on site should be free to shorten or to extend the intervals between the checks.

Our full report on our work will be published later this year, but we hope that for the time being this opinion will be of assistance

Yours faithfully'



Dr. Kai Holtappels  
Head of Working Group "Safety Related Properties of Gases"  
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