## **How Does Your SAFETY PROGRAM Stack Up?**

All the common welding and industrial gases found in the work place are hazardous when safety procedures and equipment are not used or ignored. Welding and industrial gas safety requires training and equipment which is readily available from gas and welding equipment suppliers.

A gas safety program starts with, and requires, regular self auditing. Knowing the status of a gas safety program is critical before an accident or violation occurs. Free self audit check lists are available from your gas and welding equipment supplier or in the 'downloads' section at www.oxyfuelsafety.com.

A comprehensive gas safety program should include regular gas safety training for any employee who uses welding or industrial gases or requisitions, completes paperwork, or supervises areas where gases are used, stored, or transported.

YES	NO		TRAINING
		1.	Is welding and gas safety awareness training conducted at least once per year for all welders, gas users, and supervisors of these personnel? Does this training include all parts of 29 CFR Part 1910, 1915, 1917, and 1926 that are relevant to your operation?
		2.	Are equipment repair and maintenance personnel qualified and experienced to identify equipment and compressed gas safety and productivity issues such as worn or leaking welding hose, broken regulator gauges, leaking pipelines, defective or improper selection of equipment (I.e. gas flow capacity too small or too large for the job)?
		3.	Are all employees instructed in the location of appropriate fire extinguishing equipment and proper procedures in case of an accident or emergency?
		4.	Have vendors provided evidence and copies of documents on file of their qualifications to specify, supply, service, train, and / or repair the equipment or service they provide?
			EQUIPMENT
		5.	Are proper operating instructions provided for each operator and are they required to follow all of them?
		6.	Are all hoses, torches, couplings, gauges, and other equipment inspected at the beginning of each work session?
		7.	Are there safety mechanisms in place that prevent oxygen and fuel gas hoses from being interchanged or otherwise ensure that each hose has no more than one gas passing through it?
		8.	Have gas pipelines and gas supply systems been installed and serviced according to the manufacturer's instructions by a qualified vendor?
		9.	Are welders and gas users provided with appropriate and adequate personal protective equipment, trained to use it, and using it?
		10.	Are welders and gas users using equipment that has third party (U/L, ERL, or FM) approvals (no homemade or inexpensive unqualified imported equipment)?
		11.	Are regulators, torches, and point of use for all gases being evaluated supplied with proper approved safety devices like flashback arrestors and check valves?
		12.	Are cylinders, cylinder valves, couplings, regulators, hoses, and apparatus always kept free of oil, grease and other contaminants?
		13.	Are operators ensuring that the mixture of oxygen or air and fuel gases other than in approved torch mixers being avoided?