



GUIDANCE NOTE 20

**GUIDANCE FOR BCGA
TRAINING PROVIDERS**

REVISION 2: 2019

British Compressed Gases Association

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PREFACE

The British Compressed Gases Association (BCGA) was established in 1971, formed out of the British Acetylene Association, which existed since 1901. BCGA members include gas producers, suppliers of gas handling equipment and users operating in the compressed gas field.

The main objectives of the Association are to further technology, to promote safe practice, and to prioritise environmental protection in the supply use, storage, transportation and handling of industrial, food and medical gases, and we produce a host of publications to this end. BCGA also provides advice and makes representations on behalf of its Members to regulatory bodies, including the UK Government.

Policy is determined by a Council elected from Member Companies, with detailed technical studies being undertaken by a Technical Committee and its specialist Sub-Committees appointed for this purpose.

BCGA makes strenuous efforts to ensure the accuracy and current relevance of its publications, which are intended for use by technically competent persons. However this does not remove the need for technical and managerial judgement in practical situations. Nor do they confer any immunity or exemption from relevant legal requirements, including by-laws.

For the assistance of users, references are given, either in the text or Appendices, to publications such as British, European and International Standards and Codes of Practice, and current legislation that may be applicable but no representation or warranty can be given that these references are complete or current.

BCGA publications are reviewed, and revised if necessary, at five-yearly intervals, or sooner where the need is recognised. Readers are advised to check the Association's website to ensure that the copy in their possession is the current version.

This document has been prepared by BCGA Technical Sub-Committee 6. This document replaces BCGA Guidance Note 20, Revision 1: 2014. It was approved for publication at BCGA Technical Committee 160. This document was first published on 14/06/2019. For comments on this document contact the Association via the website www.bcgaco.uk.

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* Throughout this publication the numbers in [] brackets refer to references in Section 13. Documents referenced are the edition current at the time of publication, unless otherwise stated.

TERMINOLOGY AND DEFINITIONS

May	Indicates an option available to the user of this Guidance Note.
Gases	For the purpose of this document gases refer to compressed, liquefied, refrigerated (including cryogenic) gases or gas mixtures used in industrial, food and medical applications.
Shall	Indicates a mandatory requirement for compliance with this Guidance Note and may also indicate a mandatory requirement within UK law.
Should	Indicates a preferred requirement but is not mandatory for compliance with this Guidance Note.

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GUIDANCE FOR BCGA TRAINING PROVIDERS

1. INTRODUCTION

The *Health and Safety at Work Act* [1] and its subordinate legislation places increasing demands on employers and employees in the pursuit of improved safety performance in the workplace. Risk assessment and appropriate training are key factors in achieving this; in the gases industry, technical and safety training for users of gases is thus an important focus area.

The primary objective of the British Compressed Gases Association (BCGA) is to promote safety in the use, storage, transportation and handling of industrial, food and medical gases and the Association recognises the fundamental part that training can play in achieving the desired level of safety performance.

Gas users in the UK have access to theoretical and practical training workshops provided by a number of organisations. While it must remain the responsibility of the client to decide which Training Providers best meet their individual needs, consistency and common objectives among these providers will ultimately contribute to improving safety standards in the widest sense. Equally, Training Providers have a responsibility to support the BCGA in achieving its objectives, and to deliver their services in a manner that brings credit on themselves and the BCGA.

Training Providers should take account of documents from the European Industrial Gases Association (EIGA), such as EIGA Safety Information Human Factors 2 [2], *Individual "Training and Competence"* and EIGA 23 [3], *Safety training of employees*.

BCGA Guidance Note 23 [4], *Gas safety. Information, instruction and training*, provides information on the topics which should be covered when considering gases safety training.

The aim of this document is to provide guidance to Training Providers who are members or associate members of the BCGA on the provision of training services related to the safe use of gases and associated equipment.

This Guidance Note is intended for use in conjunction with current guidance and information produced by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and other related bodies and trade associations.

2. SCOPE

This Guidance Note states the BCGA general expectations of Training Providers in the planning, content, delivery and evaluation of their training services and products, and specifically offers guidance on promotional, publicity and customer relation's activities.

3. LIMITATIONS AND EXCLUSIONS

The BCGA does not accredit or endorse any individual Training Provider or specific training product or service. Membership of the BCGA should not by itself be used by Training Providers to imply in any way that such accreditation or endorsement is given.

The BCGA does not endorse any accreditation / approval gained by individual Training Providers from UK Awarding Bodies or Commercial Accreditation Schemes.

This Guidance Note is not intended to provide guidance or advice on any aspect of business practice or commercial arrangements.

This Guidance Note is not a regulatory document; the BCGA assumes no regulatory role or function with respect to the activities of Training Providers.

Nothing in this Guidance Note removes from Training Providers the responsibility to comply with all extant legislation related to the conduct of their business.

4. APPLICABILITY

This Guidance Note is applicable to all those who provide training relating to industrial, medical and food (including beverage) gases.

5. BCGA TRAINING OBJECTIVES

In order to complement the wider aims of the BCGA as a whole, Training Providers should design their training to:

- help improve safety performance;
- help raise levels of knowledge about gas-related subjects, equipment and practices;
- reflect, where appropriate, published Codes of Practice and guidance issued by industrial and professional associations, relevant industry standards and current legislation;
- meet identified training needs.

6. TRAINING PLANNING

The identification of training needs and objectives should emerge from Risk Assessments or Training Needs Analysis. From these, the Training Provider by agreement should:

- identify theoretical and practical training needs;
- decide what type of training activity is required and how best to provide it;

- define the desired training outcomes;
- define, where required, a methodology by which the achievement of these outcomes is evaluated.

7. TRAINING PROPOSAL

For external provision, agree a formal contract for the delivery of training services.

The Training Provider should submit a documented training proposal containing the following information:

- title and overview / syllabus of the course or courses;
- agreed training recipients;
- training objectives to be achieved or expected outcomes;
- as required, a means by which trainees will have met the required training standard. For example, the test / assessment procedures to be used if the participants are to be tested / assessed;
- duration of the course or training programme;
- training methods / materials to be used and related class sizes;
- training materials to be provided to the client and / or trainees;
- requirements for training to be met by the client - room layout, electronic equipment, white screen and / or board, refreshments etc.;
- equipment and workshop requirements to be met by the client for practical courses;
- where required, detailed Risk Assessments and / or Method Statements of the classroom and practical course activities;
- the type of certification being provided;
- the recommended re-training intervals;
- on-going support provided to the client after training, including refresher training, as required.

8. TRAINING CONTENT

The content of training activities shall facilitate achievement of the training objectives outlined above. Training Providers should ensure that:

- training courses are based upon written lesson plans and learning objectives;
- they retain complete responsibility for any training contracted by their organisation whether conducted by full-time employees or contracted associates;
- course content only varies from that agreed at contract award after negotiation with the client to meet any specific needs that the trainer may encounter when visiting or in discussion with the client prior to the commencement of the course;
- there should be adequate time provision to deliver the training.

9. TRAINING DELIVERY

The method of delivery should be appropriate for the training activity to be undertaken and should meet the following criteria:

- training is delivered by personnel with the necessary experience, knowledge, expertise and skills;
- training delivery will take account of the different needs and abilities of students;
- where required, an assessment activity or test to evaluate the understanding of students will be undertaken;
- where appropriate, practical assessment is undertaken to ascertain student capabilities following practical training;
- if the students have been assessed / tested, the Training Provider should inform them of the results as soon as possible;
- recommend action(s) (for training) if the student does not meet the required standard.

10. EVALUATION AND RECORDING OF TRAINING

Students should be given the opportunity to comment on:

- the quality of the training delivered;
- whether their personal needs and expectations have been met, within the parameters of the agreed training proposal;
- methods in which the provision might be improved to meet the agreed course aims and objectives more effectively.

On completion of the training provision, the Training Provider shall liaise with the employer and advise on the training provided and the outcomes of the students and seek feedback. This

will allow the Training Provider to evaluate the effectiveness of training and to facilitate continuous improvements in quality.

The Training Provider should provide and retain adequate evidence of the training delivered.

11. COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

The Training Provider shall have a quality management system that includes a complaints procedure.

12. PUBLICITY AND PROMOTION

In all promotional material, paper and electronic, the Training Providers should express themselves without ambiguity so that the client is not misled, intentionally or otherwise.

Publicity and promotional material may refer to this Guidance Note only in such form as explicitly approved by the BCGA.

Training Providers shall not publish an advertisement or make use of any promotional material that might lead the client to assume that they, or any of their training workshops, are formally endorsed by the BCGA.

Promotional activities, of any description, must not call into question the integrity of the BCGA or of any other Training Provider.

13. REFERENCES

Document Number	Title
1.	The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974.
2. EIGA Safety Information Human Factors 02	Individual “Training and Competence”.
3. EIGA 23	Safety training of employees.
4. BCGA Guidance Note 23	Gas safety. Information, instruction and training.

Further information can be obtained from:

UK Legislation	www.legislation.gov.uk
Health and Safety Executive (HSE)	www.hse.gov.uk
European Industrial Gases Association (EIGA)	www.eiga.eu
British Compressed Gases Association (BCGA)	www.bcgaco.uk



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