CHAPTER 63

OXIDIZERS, OXIDIZING GASES AND OXIDIZING CRYOGENIC FLUIDS

User note:

About this chapter: *Chapter 63 addresses the hazards associated with solid, liquid, gaseous and cryogenic fluid oxidizing materials, including oxygen in home use, and establishes criteria for their safe storage and protection in indoor and outdoor storage facilities, minimizing the potential for uncontrolled releases and contact with fuel sources. Although oxidizers themselves do not burn, they pose unique fire hazards because of their ability to support combustion by breaking down and giving off oxygen.*

SECTION 6301
GENERAL

6301.1 Scope. The storage and use of oxidizing materials shall be in accordance with this chapter and Chapter 50. Oxidizing gases shall also comply with Chapter 53. Oxidizing *cryogenic fluids* shall also comply with Chapter 55.

Exceptions:

1. Display and storage in Group M and storage in Group S occupancies complying with Section 5003.11.
2. Bulk oxygen systems at industrial and institutional consumer sites shall be in accordance with NFPA 55.
3. Liquid oxygen stored or used in home health care in Group I-1, I-4 and R occupancies in accordance with Section 6306.

6301.2 Permits. Permits shall be required as set forth in Section 105.6.

SECTION 6302
DEFINITIONS

6302.1 Definitions. The following terms are defined in Chapter 2:

BULK OXYGEN SYSTEM.

LIQUID OXYGEN AMBULATORY CONTAINER.

LIQUID OXYGEN HOME CARE CONTAINER.

OXIDIZER.
- **Class 4.**
- **Class 3.**
- **Class 2.**
- **Class 1.**

OXIDIZING CRYOGENIC FLUID.

OXIDIZING GAS.

SECTION 6303
GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

6303.1 Quantities not exceeding the maximum allowable quantity per control area. The storage and use of oxidizing materials in amounts not exceeding the *maximum allowable quantity per control area* indicated in Section 5003.1 shall be in accordance with Sections 5001, 5003, 6301 and 6303. Oxidizing gases shall also comply with Chapter 53.

6303.1.1 Special limitations for indoor storage and use by occupancy. The indoor storage and use of oxidizing materials shall be in accordance with Sections 6303.1.1.1 through 6303.1.1.3.

6303.1.1.1 Class 4 liquid and solid oxidizers. The storage and use of Class 4 liquid and solid oxidizers shall comply with Sections 6303.1.1.1.1 through 6303.1.1.1.4.

6303.1.1.1.1 Group A, E, I or U occupancies. In Group A, E, I or U occupancies, any amount of Class 4 liquid and solid oxidizers shall be stored in accordance with the following:

1. Class 4 liquid and solid oxidizers shall be stored in hazardous materials storage cabinets complying with Section 5003.8.7.
2. The hazardous materials storage cabinets shall not contain other storage.

6303.1.1.1.2 Group R occupancies. Class 4 liquid and solid oxidizers shall not be stored or used within Group R occupancies.

6303.1.1.1.3 Offices and retail sales areas. Class 4 liquid and solid oxidizers shall not be stored or used in offices or retail sales areas of Group B, F, M or S occupancies.

6303.1.1.1.4 Classrooms. In classrooms of Group B, F or M occupancies, any amount of Class 4 liquid and solid oxidizers shall be stored in accordance with the following:

1. Class 4 liquid and solid oxidizers shall be stored in hazardous materials storage cabinets complying with Section 5003.8.7.
2. Hazardous materials storage cabinets shall not contain other storage.

6303.1.1.2 Class 3 liquid and solid oxidizers. Not more than 220 pounds (99 kg) of solid or 22 gallons (83 L) of liquid Class 3 oxidizer is allowed in storage and use where such materials are necessary for maintenance purposes or operation of equipment. The oxidizers shall be stored in *approved* containers and in an *approved* manner.

6303.1.1.3 Oxidizing gases. Except for cylinders of nonliquefied *compressed gases* not exceeding a capacity of 250 cubic feet (7 m^3) or liquefied *compressed gases* not exceeding a capacity of 46 pounds (21 kg) each used for maintenance purposes, patient care or operation of equipment, oxidizing gases shall not be stored or used in Group A, E, I or R occupancies or in offices in Group B occupancies.

The aggregate quantities of gases used for maintenance purposes and operation of equipment shall not exceed the *maximum allowable quantity per control area* listed in Table 5003.1.1(1).

Medical gas systems and medical gas supply cylinders shall also be in accordance with Section 5306.

6303.1.2 Emergency shutoff. *Compressed gas* systems conveying oxidizing gases shall be provided with *approved* manual or automatic emergency shutoff valves that can be activated at each point of use and at each source.

6303.1.2.1 Shutoff at source. A manual or automatic fail-safe emergency shutoff valve shall be installed on supply piping at the cylinder or bulk source. Manual or automatic cylinder valves are allowed to be used as the required emergency shutoff valve where the source of supply is limited to unmanifolded cylinder sources.

6303.1.2.2 Shutoff at point of use. A manual or automatic emergency shutoff valve shall be installed on the supply piping at the point of use or at a point where the equipment using the gas is connected to the supply system.

6303.1.3 Ignition source control. Ignition sources in areas containing oxidizing gases shall be controlled in accordance with Section 5003.7.

6303.2 Class 1 oxidizer storage configuration. The storage configuration of Class 1 liquid and solid oxidizers shall be as set forth in Table 6303.2.

SECTION 6304
STORAGE

6304.1 Indoor storage. Indoor storage of oxidizing materials in amounts exceeding the *maximum allowable quantity per control area* indicated in Table 5003.1.1(1) shall be in accordance with Sections 5001, 5003 and 5004 and this chapter.

6304.1.1 Explosion control. Indoor storage rooms, areas and buildings containing Class 4 liquid or solid oxidizers shall be provided with explosion control in accordance with Section 911.

6304.1.2 Automatic sprinkler system. The *automatic sprinkler system* for oxidizer storage shall be designed in accordance with NFPA 400.

6304.1.3 Liquid-tight floor. In addition to Section 5004.12, floors of storage areas for liquid and solid oxidizers shall be of liquid-tight construction.

6304.1.4 Smoke detection. An *approved* supervised smoke detection system in accordance with Section 907 shall be installed in liquid and solid oxidizer storage areas. Activation of the smoke detection system shall sound a local alarm.

Exception: Detached storage buildings protected by an *approved* automatic fire-extinguishing system.

6304.1.5 Storage conditions. The maximum quantity of oxidizers per building in storage buildings shall not exceed those quantities set forth in Tables 6304.1.5(1) through 6304.1.5(3).

The storage configuration for liquid and solid oxidizers shall be as set forth in Table 6303.2 and Tables 6304.1.5(1) through 6304.1.5(3).

Class 2 oxidizers shall not be stored in *basements* except where such storage is in stationary tanks.

Class 3 and 4 oxidizers in amounts exceeding the *maximum allowable quantity per control area* set forth in Section 5003.1 shall be stored on the ground floor only.

TABLE 6303.2
STORAGE OF CLASS 1 OXIDIZER LIQUIDS AND SOLIDS

STORAGE CONFIGURATION	LIMITS (feet)
Piles	
Maximum width	24
Maximum height	20
Maximum distance to aisle	12
Minimum distance to next pile[a]	4
Minimum distance to walls[b]	2
Maximum quantity per pile	200 tons
Maximum quantity per building	No Limit

For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm, 1 pound = 0.454 kg, 1 ton = 0.907185 metric ton.

a. The minimum aisle width shall be equal to the pile height, but not less than 4 feet and not greater than 8 feet.

b. There shall not be a minimum distance from the pile to a wall for amounts less than 9,000 pounds.

TABLE 6304.1.5(1)
STORAGE OF CLASS 2 OXIDIZER LIQUIDS AND SOLIDS

STORAGE CONFIGURATION	LIMITS		
	Control area storage	Group H occupancy storage	Detached storage
Piles			
Maximum width	16 feet	25 feet	25 feet
Maximum height	Note a	Note a	Note a
Maximum distance to aisle	8 feet	12 feet	12 feet
Minimum distance to next pile	Note b	Note b	Note b
Minimum distance to walls	2 feet	2 feet[c]	2 feet[c]
Maximum quantity per pile	MAQ	100 tons	100 tons
Maximum quantity per building	MAQ	2000 tons	No Limit

For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm, 1 pound = 0.454 kg, 1 ton = 0.907185 metric ton.

a. Maximum storage height in nonsprinklered buildings is limited to 6 feet. In sprinklered buildings see NFPA 400 for storage heights based on ceiling sprinkler protection.

b. The minimum aisle width shall be equal to the pile height, but not less than 4 feet and not greater than 8 feet.

c. For protection level and detached storage under 4,500 pounds, there shall not be a minimum separation distance between the pile and any wall.

TABLE 6304.1.5(2)
STORAGE OF CLASS 3 OXIDIZER LIQUIDS AND SOLIDS

STORAGE CONFIGURATION	LIMITS		
	Control area storage	Group H occupancy storage	Detached storage
Piles			
Maximum width	12 feet	16 feet	20 feet
Maximum height	Note a	Note a	Note a
Maximum distance to aisle	8 feet	10 feet	10 feet
Minimum distance to next pile	Note b	Note b	Note b
Minimum distance to walls	4 feet	4 feet[c]	4 feet[c]
Maximum quantity per pile	NA	30 tons	100 tons
Maximum quantity per building	MAQ	1200 tons	No Limit

For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm, 1 pound = 0.454 kg, 1 ton = 0.907185 metric ton.

a. Maximum storage height in nonsprinklered buildings is limited to 6 feet. In sprinklered buildings see NFPA 400 for storage heights based on ceiling sprinkler protection.

b. The minimum aisle width shall be equal to the pile height, but not less than 4 feet and not greater than 8 feet.

c. For protection level and detached storage under 2,300 pounds, there shall not be a minimum separation distance between the pile and any wall.

TABLE 6304.1.5(3)
STORAGE OF CLASS 4 OXIDIZER LIQUIDS AND SOLIDS

STORAGE CONFIGURATION	LIMITS (feet)
Piles	
Maximum length	10
Maximum width	4
Maximum height	8
Minimum distance to next pile	8
Maximum quantity per building	No Limit

For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm.

6304.1.6 Separation of Class 4 oxidizers from other materials. In addition to the requirements in Section 5003.9.8, Class 4 oxidizer liquids and solids shall be separated from other hazardous materials by not less than a 1-hour *fire barrier* or stored in hazardous materials storage cabinets.

6304.1.7 Contamination. Liquid and solid oxidizers shall not be stored on or against combustible surfaces. Liquid and solid oxidizers shall be stored in a manner to prevent contamination.

6304.1.8 Detached storage. Storage of liquid and solid oxidizers shall be in detached buildings where required by Section 5003.8.2.

6304.1.8.1 Separation distance. Detached storage buildings for Class 4 oxidizer liquids and solids shall be located not less than 50 feet (15 240 mm) from other hazardous materials storage.

6304.2 Outdoor storage. Outdoor storage of oxidizing materials in amounts exceeding the *maximum allowable quantities per control area* set forth in Table 5003.1.1(3) shall be in accordance with Sections 5001, 5003, 5004 and this chapter. Oxidizing gases shall also comply with Chapter 53.

6304.2.1 Distance from storage to exposures for oxidizing gases. Outdoor storage areas for oxidizing gases shall be located in accordance with Table 6304.2.1.

TABLE 6304.2.1
OXIDIZER GASES—DISTANCE FROM STORAGE TO EXPOSURES[a]

QUANTITY OF GAS STORED (cubic feet at NTP)	DISTANCE TO A BUILDING NOT ASSOCIATED WITH THE MANUFACTURE OR DISTRIBUTION OF OXIDIZING GASES OR PUBLIC WAY OR LOT LINE THAT CAN BE BUILT UPON (feet)	DISTANCE BETWEEN STORAGE AREAS (feet)
0 – 50,000	5	5
50,001 – 100,000	10	10
100,001 or greater	15	10

For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm, 1 cubic foot = 0.02832 m^3.

a. The minimum required distances shall not apply where fire barriers without openings or penetrations having a minimum fire-resistance rating of 2 hours interrupt the line of sight between the storage and the exposure. The configuration of the fire barrier shall be designed to allow natural ventilation to prevent the accumulation of hazardous gas concentrations.

6304.2.1.1 Oxidizing cryogenic fluids. Outdoor storage areas for oxidizing *cryogenic fluids* shall be located in accordance with Chapter 55.

6304.2.2 Storage configuration for liquid and solid oxidizers. Storage configuration for liquid and solid oxidizers shall be in accordance with **Table** 6303.2 and Tables 6304.1.5(1) through 6304.1.5(3).

6304.2.3 Storage configuration for oxidizing gases. Storage configuration for oxidizing gases shall be in accordance with Table 6304.2.1.

SECTION 6305
USE

6305.1 Scope. The use of oxidizers in amounts exceeding the *maximum allowable quantity per control area* indicated in Table 5003.1.1(1) or 5003.1.1(3) shall be in accordance with Sections 5001, 5003, 5005 and this chapter. Oxidizing gases shall also comply with Chapter 53.

SECTION 6306
LIQUID OXYGEN IN HOME HEALTH CARE

6306.1 General. The storage and use of liquid oxygen (LOX) in home health care in Group I-1, I-4 and R occupancies shall comply with Sections 6306.2 through 6306.6, or shall be stored and used in accordance with Chapter 50.

6306.2 Information and instructions to be provided. The seller of liquid oxygen shall provide the user with information in written form that includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Manufacturer's instructions and labeling for safe storage and use of the containers.
2. Locating containers away from ignition sources, *exits*, electrical hazards and high-temperature devices in accordance with Section 6306.3.3.
3. Restraint of containers to prevent falling in accordance with Section 6306.3.4.
4. Requirements for handling containers in accordance with Section 6306.3.5.
5. Safeguards for refilling containers in accordance with Section 6306.3.6.
6. Signage requirements in accordance with Section 6306.6.

6306.3 Liquid oxygen home care containers. Containers of liquid oxygen in home health care shall be in accordance with Sections 6306.3.1 through 6306.3.6.3.

6306.3.1 Maximum individual container capacity. Liquid oxygen home care containers shall not exceed an individual capacity of 15.8 gallons (60 L) in Group I-1, I-4 and R occupancies. Liquid oxygen ambulatory containers are allowed in Group I-1, I-4 and R occupancies. Containers of liquid oxygen in home health care shall also be stored, used and filled in accordance with Section 6306 and **Sections** 5503.1 and 5503.2.

6306.3.2 Manufacturer's instructions and labeling. Containers shall be stored, used and operated in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and labeling.

6306.3.3 Locating containers. Containers shall not be located in areas where any of the following conditions exist:

1. They can be overturned due to operation of a door.
2. They are in the direct path of egress.
3. They are subject to falling objects.
4. They can become part of an electrical circuit.
5. Open flames and high-temperature devices can cause a hazard.

6306.3.4 Restraining containers. Liquid oxygen home care containers shall be restrained while in storage or use to prevent falling caused by contact, vibration or seismic activity. Containers shall be restrained by one of the following methods:

1. Restraining containers to a fixed object with one or more restraints.
2. Restraining containers within a framework, stand or assembly designed to secure the container.
3. Restraining containers by locating a container against two points of contact such as the walls of a corner of a room or a wall and a secure furnishing or object such as a desk.

6306.3.5 Container handling. Containers shall be handled by use of a cart or hand truck designed for such use.

Exceptions:

1. Liquid oxygen home care containers equipped with a roller base.
2. Liquid oxygen ambulatory containers are allowed to be hand carried.

6306.3.6 Filling of containers. The filling of containers shall be in accordance with Sections 6306.3.6.1 through 6306.3.6.3.

6306.3.6.1 Filling location. Liquid oxygen home care containers and ambulatory containers shall be filled outdoors.

Exception: Liquid oxygen ambulatory containers are allowed to be filled indoors where the supply container is specifically designed for filling such containers and written instructions are provided by the container manufacturer.

6306.3.6.2 Incompatible surfaces. A drip pan compatible with liquid oxygen shall be provided under home care container fill and vent connections during the filling process in order to protect against liquid oxygen spillage from coming into contact with combustible surfaces, including asphalt.

6306.3.6.3 Open flames and high-temperature devices. The use of open flames and high-temperature devices shall be in accordance with Section 5003.7.2.

6306.4 Maximum aggregate quantity. The maximum aggregate quantity of liquid oxygen allowed in storage and in use in each *dwelling unit* shall be 31.6 gallons (120 L).

Exceptions:

1. The maximum aggregate quantity of liquid oxygen allowed in Group I-4 occupancies shall be limited by the maximum allowable quantity set forth in Table 5003.1.1(1).

2. Where individual sleeping rooms are separated from the remainder of the *dwelling unit* by *fire barriers* constructed in accordance with Section 707 of the *International Building Code*, and *horizontal assemblies* constructed in accordance with Section 711 of the *International Building Code*, or both, having a minimum *fire-resistance rating* of 1 hour, the maximum aggregate quantity per *dwelling unit* shall be increased to allow not more than 31.6 gallons (120 L) of liquid oxygen per sleeping room.

6306.5 Smoking prohibited. Smoking shall be prohibited in rooms or areas where liquid oxygen is in use.

6306.6 Signs. Warning signs for occupancies using home health care liquid oxygen shall be in accordance with Sections 6306.6.1 and 6306.6.2.

6306.6.1 No smoking sign. A sign stating "OXYGEN—NO SMOKING" shall be posted in each room or area where liquid oxygen containers are stored, used or filled.

6306.6.2 Premises signage. Where required by the *fire code official*, each *dwelling unit* or *sleeping unit* shall have an *approved* sign indicating that the unit contains liquid oxygen home care containers.

6306.7 Fire department notification. Where required by the *fire code official*, the liquid oxygen seller shall notify the fire department of the locations of liquid oxygen home care containers.