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Importing gas cylinders and fire extinguishers

All cylinders that come into New Zealand must comply with the Health and Safety at Work (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2017. The Regulations cover cylinders and any fittings, such as valves, regulators and adaptors. This fact sheet explains the processes available for importing gas cylinders into New Zealand.

'You' – the PCBU

This fact sheet is for persons conducting a business or undertaking (PCBUs) who import cylinders into New Zealand. In this sheet, 'you' means the PCBU.

A PCBU is an individual or a company, but it can also be other types of organisations. More information about PCBUs and other duty holders in the workplace and their duties is available on our website:

worksafe.govt.nz

There are two ways you can import cylinders into New Zealand.

1. Importing cylinders that are designed, constructed, tested and marked according to the United Nations Recommendations for the Transport of Dangerous Goods – Model Regulations 2015 (UNRTDG).
2. Importing non-UNRTDG cylinders.

Importing UNRTDG cylinders

If your cylinders or fire extinguishers have the appropriate UN markings, you only need a compliance certificate from an authorised compliance certifier.

You can find a list of authorised compliance certifiers on our [website](#).



FIGURE 1:
UN marking on
a gas cylinder

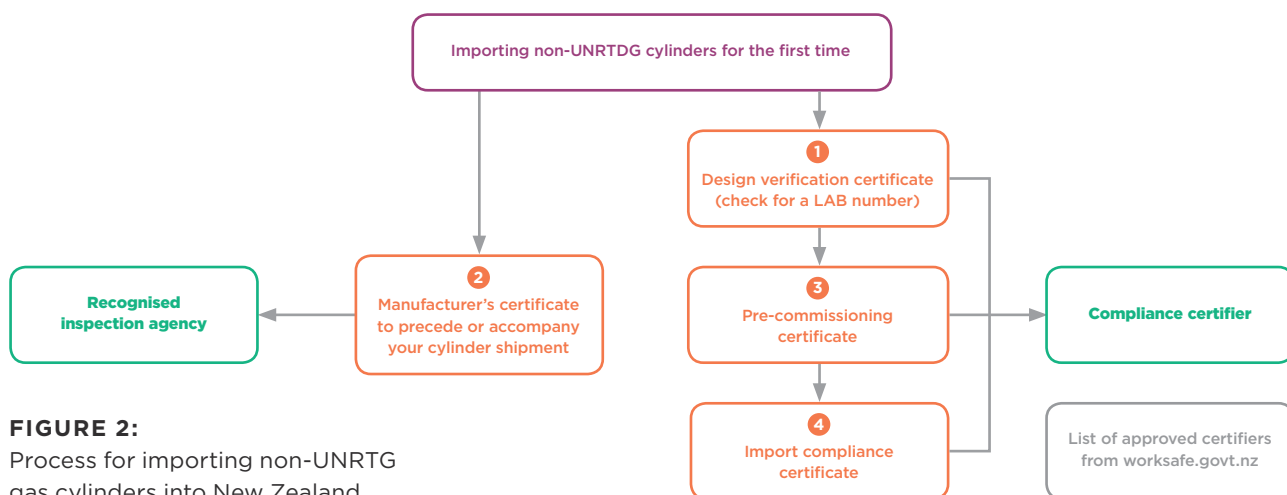


FIGURE 2:
Process for importing non-UNRTDG gas cylinders into New Zealand

Importing non-UNRTDG cylinders

Non-UNRTDG cylinders or high pressure fire extinguishers that are imported into New Zealand for the first time must have the following compliance certificates:

1. A design verification certificate

All cylinder designs must be verified before import. Check to see if your cylinder has been previously approved to a WorkSafe design standard. If your cylinder is approved, it will have a record (LAB) number.

If your cylinder has not been approved, you will need to apply for a design verification certificate from an authorised compliance certifier.

To find out if your cylinder is approved, check the *Gas cylinder record page* on our [website](#).

2. A manufacturing certificate

A manufacturing certificate issued by a recognised inspection agency, must precede, or accompany, each cylinder shipment. This confirms the cylinder has been manufactured according to the approved design.

A list of recognised cylinder inspection agencies is available on our [website](#).

3. A pre-commissioning certificate

Pre-commissioning checks that the construction of the cylinders and its measurements complies with the approved design.

A pre-commissioning certificate is issued by an authorised compliance certifier.

4. A compliance certificate for the imported cylinder

A compliance certificate confirms that the cylinders comply with the approved design, have the correct markings, are not damaged and have passed the relevant tests and inspections.

You must get a compliance certificate before the cylinders can be supplied for sale.

Exemption from compliance certifications

If you are importing small numbers of cylinders for specialised use (eg a medical gas cylinder), you can apply for an exemption from each of the design verification, the pre-commissioning and the compliance certificates. You can apply for this exemption through an authorised cylinder test station for a fee.

The application form for an exemption for a special cylinder is available on our [website](#).

Importing low pressure fire extinguishers

All low pressure fire extinguishers must have a fire extinguisher registration number (FERN) before they can be imported into New Zealand.

A product certification body will issue a FERN if the fire extinguisher complies with the approved design standards.

If your fire extinguishers have a FERN, you don't need a design verification, manufacturing or pre-commissioning certificate. If it has a FERN, it will be stamped or printed on the fire extinguisher.

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