

June 7, 2011

# SAFETY ALERT

## Unauthorized Marking of Compressed Gas Cylinders

This notice advises the public that PHMSA has recently confirmed an undetermined number of certain (aluminum) cylinders were improperly marked and represented as DOT specification 3AL cylinders. The cylinders were neither marked nor certified by an authorized independent inspection agency (IIA) with its official mark and date, in accordance with the applicable regulatory requirements. Therefore, the cylinders are unauthorized for hazardous materials service. An undetermined number of the cylinders (typically used for home kegerators), were manufactured between 2009 through 2011 and improperly marked with the manufacturer's symbol "M0306." The cylinders have been stamped with a period (.) between the month and year of manufacture, i.e., "8.10." PHMSA issued the manufacturing symbol "M0306" to Shanghai Qingpu Fire Fighting Equipment Company, Ltd. (Qingpu), located in Shanghai, China. Arrowhead Industrial Services, Inc. (Arrowhead), as Qingpu's authorized independent inspection agency, would have marked the cylinders that passed inspection with its official mark (the letter "A" inside of an arrowhead) between the month and year of manufacture. (Please see photo below for a comparison).



Prior to filling these cylinders, a person must verify that the IIA's official mark is stamped between the month and year manufactured. The evidence suggests that if the cylinder is marked with a period (.) rather than the official IIA mark, the cylinder did not undergo the complete series of safety tests and inspections required by the HMR and may not possess the structural integrity to safely contain its contents under pressure during normal transportation and use. Extensive property damage, serious personal injury, or death could result from a rupture of the cylinder. Individuals who identify a cylinder marked with only a period (.) between the month and year are advised to remove these cylinders from service and contact Qingpu's U.S. Agent directly at the below address for further instructions.



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Pipeline and  
Hazardous Materials  
Safety Administration**

For more information, please contact Ms. Yuying Chen, U.S. Agent for Shanghai  
Qingpu Fire Fighting Equipment Company, Ltd., (412) 235-7880.