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**GUIDELINE FOR  
SAFE USE OF  
OXY-FUEL  
EQUIPMENT USED  
IN WELDING,  
CUTTING, AND  
ALLIED PROCESSES**

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NOTE—No technical information has been changed from the 2018 edition. This reaffirmed edition may include minor editorial changes.

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## 1 Introduction

Oxy-fuel welding and cutting apparatus and heating torch apparatus can be used safely. However, failure to take safety precautions can result in property damage, personal injury, and/or the possible loss of life.

## 2 Scope

This guideline provides safety precautions for the use of oxy-fuel gas welding and cutting apparatus and oxy-fuel and air-fuel gas heating torch apparatus. Failure to take basic safety precautions can result in property damage, personal injury, and/or possible loss of life.

This publication does not include specific procedures, nor shall it be viewed as working instructions.

## 3 Definitions

For the purpose of this publication, the following definitions apply.

### 3.1 Publication terminology

#### 3.1.1 Shall

Indicates that the procedure is mandatory. It is used wherever the criterion for conformance to specific recommendations allows no deviation.

#### 3.1.2 Should

Indicates that a procedure is recommended.

#### 3.1.3 May

Indicates that the procedure is optional.

#### 3.1.4 Will

Used only to indicate the future, not a degree of requirement.

#### 3.1.5 Can

Indicates a possibility or ability.

## 4 Safe use of oxy-fuel gas welding and cutting apparatus

The following DOs and DO NOTs can reduce the likelihood of a serious incident occurring. These lists are not intended to be comprehensive.

### 4.1 DOs for use of oxy-fuel gas welding and cutting apparatus

The following DOs apply to all oxy-fuel gas welding and cutting apparatus:

- Carefully read the equipment manufacturer's operating instructions before using any equipment. If the operator does not have the operating instructions, obtain a copy from the manufacturer or the local distributor. Additional information on equipment can be found in the publications listed in Section 7;
- Have a trained person demonstrate the proper procedures before attempting to set up or use the equipment unless the operator has already been trained;
- Follow the equipment manufacturer's operating instructions at all times. Deviation from these instructions can result in property damage, personal injury, and/or loss of life;
- Inspect oxygen regulators before installing them on cylinders. Inlet connections shall be clean. If there is evidence of oil, grease, or other contaminants on the nut, nipple, or filter, remove the regulator from service and have it inspected and cleaned by a qualified repair facility before using it;