

## **Firesafe™ Valves**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

*Q: What are Firesafe Valves?*

**A:** Firesafe™ valves provide an extra line of defence that can limit the impact of an oxygen fire by automatically arresting the oxygen flow in the event of a fire.

*Q: Why are we introducing Firesafe Valves?*

**A:** In July 2012 an amendment to EN ISO 8359:2009 – Oxygen concentrators for medical use – Safety requirements was published. The standard now calls for two specific oxygen concentrator safety requirements:

- 1) A means to prevent propagation of a fire back into the concentrator is required to be installed at the oxygen concentrator outlet
- 2) A means to stop the flow of gas to the patient is required to be installed close to the point of oxygen delivery to the patient.

*Q: Which accessories are required to be used together with the Firesafe Valves and why are these required?*

**A:** The following accessories will be used with Firesafe valves:

- 1) New cannula (6439S) – this cannula with 1.2m tubing allows the firesafe valve to be connected close to the patient
- 2) New 10cm length of tubing (5227S) – this tubing connects to the oxygen concentrator outlet, allowing a Firesafe valve to be connected to the concentrator
- 3) The relevant extension tubing (843S – 7ft, 1975S – 15ft, 4179S – 35ft).

*Q: When will Firesafe Valves and accessories initially be provided to patients?*

**A:** At all new stationary oxygen concentrator setups.

*Q: When will Firesafe Valves and accessories be replaced?*

**A:** Replacement Firesafe valves and accessories will be provided by HCT's/agents at the usual scheduled Preventive Maintenance intervals.

*Q: Who can install Firesafe Valves?*

**A:** It is recommended by the manufacturer that only a suitably trained and qualified home healthcare professional installs the firesafe valves. If a patient is going to connect firesafe valves themselves, it needs to be ensured that they have a thorough understanding of all aspects of the connection for their safety.

*Q: Can Firesafe Valves be used between patients?*

**A:** Firesafe Valves are intended for single patient use and should be discarded when replaced during preventive maintenance servicing.

*Q: Can Firesafe Valves be moved between different oxygen sources?*

**A:** Firesafe Valves are intended for single installation and should not be moved between installations as this might provide a cross contamination risk.

*Q: How frequently are Firesafe Valves replaced?*

**A:** Every 6 months – usually at the scheduled Preventive Maintenance servicing.

*Q: Can the Firesafe Valves be washed/cleaned and reused?*

**A:** No, this is a single use device, no attempt must be made to reuse the device on another patient or clean it internally.

*Q: What happens if the the Firesafe Valve is fitted the wrong way around – does it still work if there's a fire?*

**A:** The Firesafe™ valve is bi-directional meaning there is no wrong way around.

*Q: Do Firesafe Valves affect the oxygen flow rate?*

**A:** The Firesafe™ Valves have been carefully designed to minimise resistance to the flow of oxygen.

*Q: Are Firesafe Valves compatible with humidification?*

**A:** They are compatible with cold humidification systems (e.g. bubble humidifier). When a stationary concentrator is used with a PAP machine or the myAIRVO, connect one Firesafe valve at the concentrator outlet and the second Firesafe valve at the oxygen inlet port, prior to the heated humidifier, using a 10 cm tube.

*Q: How can I tell when a Firesafe™ Valve was made?*

**A:** The date of manufacture is given in the format DDMMYY on the second row of text laser engraved on to the body.

*Q: Where can I find out more about the Firesafe™ Valves?*

**A:** The distributor support manual and patient user manual are available in Sharepoint: Documents/User Manuals/Firesafe Valves.