March 24, 2014

Q: Is there a specific sign or specific language that must be used with regard to oxygen/medical gas storage in either a room or enclosure within a long term care facility?

A: Yes. NFPA 99 Ed. 1999 8-3.1.11.3 Signs - states that a precautionary sign, readable from a distance of 5 feet (1.5 meters), shall be conspicuously displayed on each door or gate of the oxygen storage room or enclosure. The sign shall include the following wording at a minimum:

CAUTION:
OXIDIZING GAS(ES) STORED WITHIN
NO SMOKING

Life Safety Code Tag F323 will be and has been cited, if the language noted above is not used. There are several non-compliant signs available and being used by facilities that do not meet the requirements noted above. Please check your signage and make sure it complies, at a minimum, to the wording stated above.