

September 1, 2009

Compressed Gas Cylinder Restraint Failure

A colleague in the NIST Nanomechanical Properties Group was setting up a gas cylinder in his lab and wanted to confirm that the restraint was properly clamped to the bench so he yanked on the strap to test it. The clamp was fine but the strap (which looked fine visually) came apart (see picture below).

We may want to phase out fabric straps in favor of chains since in many labs the combination of age and environment in many chemical labs lead to enough loss in strength to be hazardous. Often this loss in strength is not apparent through visual inspection.

Please check the gas cylinder restraints in your area for integrity and consider replacing fabric strap with chains. Thank you.

