

UC PROCUREMENT UPDATE

Important details below...

POLICY & PROCEDURE UPDATE

WHAT: Airgas Cryogenic Liquid Services | Service Changes Date Extended
FROM: UC Procurement | UC Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S)

SERVICE CHANGES OUTLINE

As previously announced, Airgas delivery drivers will no longer provide services related to cryogenic liquid nitrogen that fall outside the scope of contracted work.

Recently, the scope of these non-contracted services has been further defined and the **date of service changes has been extended from October 7 to November 18, 2022.**

Effective November 18, 2022, Airgas drivers will no longer perform:

- Connection / disconnection services for ANY cryogenic liquid applications
- Inventory management for ANY cryogenic liquid applications
- Filling of open-mouth dewar flasks of ANY cryogenic liquid kind

This change only impacts cylinders involving cryogenic liquids. All other services (e.g., replacement / connection of compressed gases) will remain the same.

NEXT STEPS

Airgas has provided UC with a list of locations where these changes will likely impact cryogenic liquid services. UC Procurement and EH&S are working to inform locations and stakeholders about the upcoming changes to support a smooth transition of these activities.

EH&S is actively working on updating safety training materials that will support UC stakeholders in taking over the tasks previously performed by Airgas delivery drivers.

Laboratories, clinics, and other locations should prepare for the transition by doing the following:

1. **SPACE.** Ensure sufficient space is available for replacement cylinders / dewars to be delivered. There must be clear access and an empty location available.
2. **CONTACTS.** Post phone numbers clearly at the delivery location in case of issues (e.g., removal of hoses / lines, insufficient space, emergencies, etc.)
3. **LINES.** Remove any filling or transfer hoses and lines connected to large cylinders (e.g., 160L or 230L). Airgas will no longer remove, pickup, or replace large cylinders with hoses/lines connected. If lines are still connected, the empty dewar will not be picked up or replaced.
4. **EQUIPMENT.** Obtain the proper tools and equipment to perform your own connections and filling. This includes personal protective equipment, carts or dollies (for cryogenic tank or dewar transport), wrenches, and hoses or lines (for cryogenic transfers).
5. **ORDERING.** Purchase or source larger quantities of liquid nitrogen for longer-term uses. Airgas will no longer refill small dewars (e.g., 25L) from their larger supplies (e.g., 160L or 230L). This will require laboratories to transport smaller cylinders to a larger storage tank themselves.

FAQs

Can a lab establish a hold-harmless agreement or waiver of liability agreement directly with Airgas to allow for continued cryogenic liquid connection / disconnection, inventory management or filling services?

No, Airgas will no longer be providing these services and will not establish individual lab-level agreements.

Can UC contract with another vendor to provide these services?

No, currently there are no vendors that provide the discontinued services.

How will delivery drop off and pick up details be coordinated and communicated to the laboratory?

Airgas will continue its current delivery practices but will no longer provide the discontinued connection and filling services. Additionally, laboratories, clinics, and all locations should ensure that:

- 1) *space is provided for the size of cylinder / dewar, and*
- 2) *delivery contact phone numbers are clearly posted in case of issues.*

What type of tools and safety equipment will a laboratory need to perform these activities?

Tools required to perform connection and disconnection tasks include:

- *Wrench (either an adjustable crescent wrench or a designated cylinder wrench)*
- *Cryogen transfer lines (hoses, or pipes) – minimum 6' long*
- *Carts or dollies for transport (all dewars less than 230L)*

- *Personal protective equipment, including proper lab attire (laboratory coat, long pants, closed toe shoes), leather or insulated working gloves, cryogen safety gloves, aprons, safety glasses, and face-shields*
- *Wooden yardsticks are recommended to identify liquid levels in containers*
- *Use of stands or objects to prop up smaller dewars when filling to a smaller cylinder if the transfer line does not reach to the floor.*

Necessary tools and proper safety equipment will be covered in the EH&S safety training.

QUESTIONS | CONTACTS

Please contact:

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