



## AIRGAS WALK-O<sub>2</sub>-BOUT®

by Paul Mathews PhD, RRT

The Airgas Walk-O<sub>2</sub>-Bout is a product of Airgas Puritan Medical, the medical business within Airgas, Inc. of Radnor, PA. Airgas, which began in 1982, is the largest U.S. distributor of industrial, specialty and medical gases and related supplies.

The Walk-O<sub>2</sub>-Bout is a portable oxygen supply, with a lightweight cylinder, built-in regulator, a DISS outlet, and wide permanent handle. It is also available in an MRI-compatible model, with aluminum cylinder and non-ferrous regulator parts.

The E-cylinders themselves are made of lightweight aluminum, which are color-coded for O<sub>2</sub> and sealed in a clear plastic coating to help keep the cylinder clean. This plastic coating also serves nicely to keep safety warnings clearly visible.

The regulator assembly sits where one would normally see a cylinder's valve stem. This assembly is very compact and includes not only a "dial-able" flow meter with a range of 0.25 to 25 liters per minute, but also a frangible disc type pressure relief valve. A 50 psig power take-off to power portable pressure-type ventilator is also present, a nice feature that allows transport of mechanically ventilated patients to the CT or MRI suite as may be necessary. Additionally, both high flow and low flow nipples are available for O<sub>2</sub> masks and cannulae and for providing oxygen for BVM units. The flow meter is a top mounted dial with a pressure gauge, which is mounted in a shock resistant casing. All of this sits within the confines of the cylinder's diameter providing protection for the entire assembly.

Because the regulator is built right into the cylinder, the Walk-O<sub>2</sub>-Bout eliminates the need to inventory, repair or replace numerous, separate regulators, a time and money saver for any institution and one less headache for the department manager. Even the Walk-O<sub>2</sub>-Bout's regulator which allows one to set precise flow rates quickly and easily reduces waste.

Mounted on the sides of the regulator body is a very sturdy stirrup-shaped steel handle covered with a softer, plastic gripping surface. This handle is unique in that it can be moved through a 90 degree arc so as to accommodate various carrying positions.

The Walk-O<sub>2</sub>-Bout with E-cylinder attached is 31.5 inches tall and weighs 5.725 lbs with a 2200 psig load. In contrast, a competitive unit weighed in at 7.25 lbs and was even taller.

Airgas also has HeO<sub>2</sub> E-cylinders available in both 80/20 and 70/30 mixtures. These cylinders are color coded and the flowmeter is prominently marked with the gas mixture identified as "HeO<sub>2</sub>". There are two gas take-offs; one with a range of 1-20 lpm, the other preset to 11 lpm for driving nebulizers. There is a 50 psig take off (not yet suggested for ventilator transports) and the frangible disc pressure relief valve for added safety.

The Walk-O<sub>2</sub>-Bout was easy to carry, easy to clean, and had the features one needs when transporting patients. The only drawback I noted was the use of steel for the carrying handle which limited its use in the MRI suite.

This versatile innovation from Airgas Puritan Medical is an excellent portable system, combining heavy-duty durability and a lightweight package. The unique streamlined design is also safe, convenient and efficient, saving time and money.

Airgas Puritan Medical also has a nationwide distribution network that managers can depend on, for the right gas at the right time.

If you are looking for a portable O<sub>2</sub> system, take a good look at the Walk-O<sub>2</sub>-Bout; it may be just what the doctor ordered. Airgas has an extensive website located at [www.Airgas.com](http://www.Airgas.com) They can also be contacted by calling toll-free 800-736-6427.



The Airgas Walk-O<sub>2</sub>-Bout®

The classic Disney logo, featuring the word "Disney" in its signature blue, cursive script font.

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