Oxygen + lubricants = potential danger

The importance of the use of correct lubrication is often overlooked. In some cases using the wrong lubricant can result in unwanted friction, premature wear, sticking and noise.

In other critical applications the consequences of using the wrong lubricant can be far more severe even causing catastrophic failure of equipment and in some cases potentially loss of life.

In order to choose the best lubricant for an application many different factors must be considered, for example the temperature of use, the potential for contamination of the equipment, presence of water or the use of cleaners and solvents which can remove the lubricant film.

In all cases the dynamics of the application must be understood as must the environment in which the lubricant is expected to operate. Often these factors are not considered due to ignorance of the importance of the lubricant to the proper operation of the equipment. In fact the lubricant is as important as any other component on the equipment and is often the ‘weakest link’.

When considering these applications it is easy to see that the incorrect choice of lubricant could be catastrophic however there are many other areas where the use of a lubricant that is not compatible with its surroundings or environment can be just as risky.

One of these critical applications is in high pressure oxygen, compressed air and nitrous oxide systems where there is the need for a great deal of care when using lubricants in the vicinity.

Oxygen reacts with conventional lubricants
Including mineral & other synthetic oils & greases and this greatly increases the potential for explosion or fire

To understand the problem we must consider the ‘triangle of fire’...

For combustion to take place we require ‘three’ elements to be present; Temperature, Air (Oxygen) and a Fuel. In the case of high pressure air the content of oxygen is higher than normal, the flash point (temperature at which the fuel will combust) is greatly reduced.

In this case the ‘fuel’ which is often introduced without consideration is an oil or grease. Using a conventional oil or grease in these cases can be extremely dangerous leading to combustion or even an explosion.

The wide range of chemically inert Zarox and IKV-Fluor Fluorinated lubricants ensures the best available lubrication for all oxygen service equipment.

The products provide excellent lubricity leading to extended equipment life versus alternative technologies.

In addition to being non-reactive towards oxygen, these products are also safe to use with other oxidising chemicals, such as chlorine. They are chemically inert, thermally stable, non-flammable, and non-volatile.

Email: sales@ikvtribology.co.uk - tel: 01600 869120 - fax: 01600 869101

Click here for www.ikvlubricants.com
IKV Fluor & Zarox Lubricants are based upon pure Fluorinated technology, they do not contain hydrogen and cannot support combustion. This wide line of products provides excellent lubrication at both low and high temperature extremes, resulting in increased durability.

They can be safely used with confidence in high pressure air, Nitrous oxide & pure gaseous and liquid oxygen (LOX) systems with no fear of combustion.

They are also completely compatible with all synthetic and natural rubbers, o rings, metals and plastics. Using an incompatible lubricant with some rubbers and plastics can cause massive swelling, material deterioration & deformation, stress cracking and failure of the component.

Fluorinated lubricant technology has become the industry standard for Aerospace, Medical, Safety breathing equipment and SCUBA diving applications.

IKV Fluor 70 Spray

IKV Fluor 70 fluid has undergone oxygen reactivity tests and been approved by BAM for use in Oxygen service. This product applies a clean thin film and is ideal for o rings and fittings in oxygen service.

IKV Fluor 70 Fluid

- Very Low Friction, extremely durable
- Oxygen safe, don't support combustion
- Compatible rubbers, plastics & metals
- Non Toxic & biologically inert
- Very wide operating temperature range
- Hydrophobic—repels water
- Resistant to solvent cleaner

Zarox & Fluor fluorinated greases

- Oxygen safe, can be used with gaseous and liquid oxygen
- Contain only PFPE and PTFE
- White non toxic and biologically inert
- Very wide operating temperature range

Pre-charged airgun refill nozzles

IKV Fluor & Zarox lubricants are non toxic, biologically inert and friendly to use, a small controlled spray of the fluorinated lubricant onto the application is all that is required.