

TABLE 13-1
Standard Designation Colors and Operating Pressures for Gas and Vacuum Systems
[NFPA 99: Table 5.1.11]

Gas Service	Abbreviated Name	Colors (Background/Text)	Standard Gauge Pressure
Medical air	Med Air	Yellow /black	3.5–3.8bar
Carbon dioxide	CO ₂	Gray /black or gray / white	3.5–3.8bar
Helium	He	Brown / white	3.5–3.8bar
Nitrogen	N ₂	Black / white	11.0–12.8bar
Nitrous oxide	N ₂ O	Blue / white	3.5–3.8bar
Oxygen	O ₂	Green / white or white / green	3.5–3.8bar
Oxygen / carbon dioxide mixture	O ₂ / CO ₂ n (n is % of CO ₂)	Green / white	3.5–3.8bar
Medical–surgical vacuum	Med Vac	White / black	38cm to 76cm Hg
Waste anesthetic gas disposal	WAGD	Violet / white	Varies with system type
Other mixtures	Gas A% / Gas B%	Colors as above Major gas for background / minor gas for text	None
Nonmedical air (level 3 gas-powered device)		Yellow-and-white diagonal stripe / black	None
Nonmedical and Level 3 vacuum		White-and-black diagonal stripe / black boxed	None
Laboratory air		Yellow-and-white checkerboard / black	None
Laboratory vacuum		White-and-black checkerboard / black boxed	None
Instrument air		Red / white	11.0–12.8bar

SI: 1bar = 14.5 psi; 1cm = 0.39 in.