



TECHNICAL BULLETIN

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Cylinders that become out of test at customer sites

Introduction

EIGA Member companies are frequently asked how to treat a cylinder whose date of next periodic test expires whilst at a customer site.

The purpose of this EIGA Technical Bulletin is to state the EIGA position on how such cylinders should be treated and provide guidance on the subject.

Background

Within Europe the frequency of the periodic inspection of gas cylinders is specified in the European Agreement on the Carriage of Dangerous Goods, for Road transport, ADR (there are corresponding regulations covering rail and inland waterway transport, but for EIGA members, predominately ADR is the governing regulation as almost all cylinders are shipped by road).

The ADR covers the transport of cylinders, and not the use, within the European Union. The requirements for the free movement and use of cylinders as related to carriage are covered by the Transportable Pressure Equipment Directive, (EC 2010/35).

Within the regulations there is no specific reference to how an out of test cylinder should be treated, except that an out of test cylinder may not be filled and that an out of test cylinder may be transported for the purposes of the periodic inspection and test (4.1.6.10 of the ADR).

However, the requirements for the periodic inspection and test in the ADR, (6.2.4.2) reference a number of mandatory standards for the periodic inspection and test of gas cylinders. Within each of the standards listed in 6.2.4.2 of ADR is a clause which states that even if a cylinder has passed its due date for the periodic inspection and test, it may continue to be used as long as the cylinder has not been subjected to abusive or abnormal service conditions, however the cylinder should be retested at an interval not exceeding twice the original test interval.

EIGA Recommendations

- Cylinders may continue in service beyond the stated test period, and should be returned for the periodic inspection and test when no longer required for use.
- Customers should not receive an out of test cylinder from a gas company or agent.
- Customers should return cylinders for retesting at an interval not exceeding twice the original test interval, as stated in the retest standards.

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