

Cylinders that become out-of-test while at customer sites

INTRODUCTION

MEGA Member companies are frequently asked how to treat a cylinder whose periodic test date expires while the cylinder is at a customer site.

The purpose of this MEGA technical bulletin is to state and explain the MEGA position on how such cylinders should be treated and provide guidance on the subject.

BACKGROUND

Within the GCC, there are generally no national regulations dealing with the construction or recertification requirements of compressed gas cylinders. Cylinders in use may be made to a variety of international specifications, including, but not limited to, such specifications as those of the International Standards Organization (ISO) or the United States Department of Transportation (DOT).

These cylinders are re qualified in accordance with the specifications to which they are manufactured.

Under the European Regulations for the Carriage of Dangerous Goods, ADR, the test period for gas cylinders is specified. Note that the ADR covers the transport of cylinders, and not the use.

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.

However, the requirements for the periodic inspection and test in the ADR, reference a number of mandatory standards for the periodic inspection and test of gas cylinders. Within these standards 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. It is also stated that a cylinder should be retested at an interval not exceeding twice the original test interval.

Similarly, the DOT regulations, which also govern the transportation, and not the use of cylinders clearly state that a cylinder may not be refilled after the expiry of the retest period,

MEGA RECOMMENDATIONS

- Cylinders may safely continue to be used beyond their stamped test period.
- Cylinders should be returned to their owner /supplier when no longer required.
- Customers should return cylinders to their owner/supplier for retesting at an interval not exceeding twice the original test interval.
- Customers should not receive an out of test cylinder from a gas company or supplier but imply that it is permitted to continue its use.

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