

ATB^(*) CYLINDERS

This Technical Bulletin replaces the Safety Alert SA-02. The first version of the Safety Alert recommended that the owners of ATB cylinders produced between 1961 and 1963 carry out a thickness check on the base of these cylinders. This check was recommended to identify cylinders that could have been produced with a thickness defect such as the one on the cylinder that had failed during a hydraulic pressure test.

The cylinders identified in the original Safety Alert were ATB cylinders, with a 229mm outside diameter and integral foot manufactured between 1961 and 1963. EIGA member companies carried out base thickness tests, using an ultrasonic measurement technique on these cylinders. The purpose of the tests was to identify any cylinder with a base thickness less than 9mm.

These ultrasonic tests indicated a lack of material thickness in the bases of a few cylinders. The information obtained, including metallurgical and mechanical studies of the steel, has proved the existence of small inclusions in the material at the base of these cylinders.

Examination of the cross-section of some of the “defective” cylinders showed that in virtually all cases, the indication of lack of thickness was not correct. The indication was due to the interruption of the sound propagation by some small inclusions in the steel.

Consequently, it has been concluded by the investigations carried out that there is no risk presented by these ATB cylinders and EIGA confirms that the specific ultrasonic test examination may be stopped.

(*) ATB = Acciaieria e Tubificio di Brescia S.p.A. (Italy). ATB was acquired by Dalmine in 1991 and the Brescia plant closed shortly afterwards.

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