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Volume 18, Issue No 1

This issue continues our quest to provide you with regular up-to-date information and feedback.

This issue covers some changes to current practice in the withdrawal of the red safety sticker. We have a newly designed website, which we hope will improve access to our information and some pre-warning of GDPR along with a lot of other important notices. So read on and get informed.

Red Safety Sticker withdrawn

In November the Scheme Committee made the decision to withdraw the red Safety Sticker that was made available in 2015. It has been withdrawn because it was felt that using this sticker did not adequately address the issue it was trying to solve. The industry is seeing a number of manufacturers putting onto the market cylinders with mis-matching valves. A 300 bar cylinder being fitted with a 232 bar valve is common with rebreathers.

IDEST do not consider that this is good engineering practice and should not be accepted by dive centres selling such kit.

IDEST maintains that best practice is to fit 300 bar valves to 300 bar crated cylinders or 232 bar valves to 232 bar cylinders. This is the practice that IDEST Test Centres should adopt.



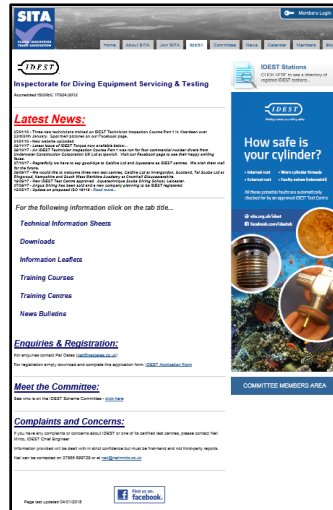
Preparing for GDPR

It has come to our notice that the Data Protection Act is being superseded by the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). These regulations are coming into force by 23rd March this year and may have a significant impact on your company. If you keep details of customers then this will affect you. You may not have been aware that keeping such details means you should be registered.

This new regulation has some significant changes to the Data Protection Act so it is in your interest to make yourself aware of what the regulations state and what you must do.

There is a document available entitled '12 Steps to take' and can be found at the following link. <https://ico.org.uk/media/1624219/preparing-for-the-gdpr-12-steps.pdf>

New IDEST website launched



At the technician seminar in April 2016 the new design of IDEST website was shown and the improvements explained. It transformed into a single page with lots of new downloadable documents and information sheets.

A further improvement has since taken place with the website being expanded into a series of specific pages for specific information.

It is felt that this form of displaying the information available will be more appropriate to what you are searching for and easier to find. The graphics have been improved as well with a different image on each page; one that is more appropriate to the topics being sought.

Please take the time to have a look at the new website and pass any feedback to the Webmaster at the address on the left column.

The web address www.idest.co.uk has ceased to be available and we are looking for a suitable replacement. When this has been achieved you will be informed of the new link.

IDEST Training Centres

IDEST has started to recruit Training Centres, which will be able to provide customers with any of the four IDEST training courses currently available.

There is Code of Practice that a centre must comply with in the same way that you currently comply with CP11:2011. The COP for Training Centres is CP15:2015 and is available from the Admin Office.

These centres are being given a page on the new website providing searchers with their contact details and the courses available.

If your Test Centre would like to become an IDEST Training Centre then contact the Admin Office for details.

Shy on postage

Pat at the Admin Office would like to point out to all the test centres that you must ensure the full and correct postage is put on to letters to IDEST. She recently received a few letters that needed the paying of outstanding charges. This means going to the post office to collect and pay or going on-line and paying. Please keep our costs down by ensuring the correct postage. Many thanks in anticipation.

Aluminium oxidation issue

We received some disturbing images from Scuba Workshop UK showing severe oxidation of an aluminium cylinder where the side-mount jubilee clips had been placed. This oxidation occurred despite the owner putting a rubber strip on the cylinder to protect it.

When these two different metals are immersed in saltwater galvanic corrosion will start. This galvanic current will oxidise the aluminium and leave the jubilee clip untouched. Leaving the cylinder unwashed for any period of time will accentuate this corrosion.

It is our advice that owners should remove these jubilee clips periodically for inspection and cleaning. That way the corrosion can be identified earlier and may even be prevented completely.



1- Oxidisation by jubilee clip

Cylinders must be leak tested

It has come to our notice that some test centres, after a PI or a PIAT, are sending out cylinders that are empty. The final part of a PI or PIAT is to check the integrity of the 'O' ring seal between the valve and the cylinder. This can only be carried out by filling the cylinder to its working pressure.

One of the Standards that a test centre is required to hold is

EN ISO 13341:1997 Fitting of valves to gas cylinders states the following.

Cylinders and valves shall be connected so that in use the combination is gas tight and the valve cannot be removed inadvertently from the cylinder.

After torquing to the correct value and to ensure it is gas tight it must be filled to its working pressure.

Remember this is part of one of the Standards that IDEST certified test centres must work to.

It has been stated that some customers require their cylinders back empty! The test does not finish until the integrity of the seal has been checked by filling the cylinder. If the customer wants the cylinder back empty one must ask the question "WHY"??

Is it that they wish to replace the valve with a different one? Perhaps a full cylinder means they cannot use the air in the cylinder because their regulators do not fit the valve in the cylinder brought in for test !! If this is the case what is the condition of the "new" valve with which they are going to replace the old one. Have they the equipment and expertise to torque the valve in correctly. We need

to keep our eyes and ears open! **The customer gets the cylinder back FULL!**

The Standards are there for your information. They are not on the list to make it longer. They are full of information that you should know. If you have questions about procedures, they are the first 'port of call' before picking up the telephone.

Paying IDEST invoices

When making a payment to IDEST will all companies ensure to include the invoice(s) numbers and amounts with their payment. It is important when making a payment that everything is identified and we can say that this covers invoice numbers x to y. Also please do not make part-payments, this makes it difficult to reconcile the amounts.

IDEST quadrant stickers

Some test centres are using their own quadrants. These quadrants are often not of the exact IDEST design thus giving a poor representation of the organisation. They often miss out important information or add information not on the IDEST design. The quadrant design is the intellectual property of IDEST and so the blue quadrant stickers should be purchased from IDEST.

When the new standard, ISO 18119:201X, comes into effect IDEST will be issuing a new design to the quadrant sticker and test centres will be obliged to purchase them from the Admin Office.

Keeping customer's property

It has been brought to our notice that some test centres are saying that once a cylinder has been brought in for a test it cannot be taken away even if the testing has not been started. This is UNTRUE.

If a customer wishes to remove his cylinder because perhaps it cannot undergo a PIAT in the time scale required he is quite entitled to do so. If you take a punctured tyre into a workshop to get repaired and they cannot do it quickly you take it to another workshop. The same applies to a customer's cylinder.

Calibration certificate PDF names

When sending scanned calibration certificates to the Admin Office, please rename the scanned file with the particular certificate that it refers to instead of leaving it with the default file name given by the computer. It would also advantageous to have them grouped together in thread gauge size, i.e. all M25s together and G3/4s together.

When you have lots of certificates to examine it takes a long time to identify them easily, especially if they have to be re-examined. Some certificates come to us

with no certificate number. If they have to be queried with the calibration laboratory it is difficult to locate them from a large number done every week.

Again please ensure they are recalibrated by a UKAS accredited laboratory and certificates are made out to your organisation. To save money ensure the laboratory you choose is capable of doing the equipment you intend to send.

Some laboratories do tapers and parallel thread gauges, some only do parallel. Some do thread gauges and pressure gauges, some only do pressure gauges. It is all in the list downloadable from the IDEST website.

Are your documents up-to-date?

If you are due for one of your triennial inspections please ensure that your documentation is up-to-date. Check that Standards are the latest ones, remember sometime this year we will be getting ISO 18119:201X. You will need a copy of this. It is a replacement for BS EN 1968:2002 and BS EN 1802:2002. It incorporates most of the contents of the previous two but has some differences. Please note what these differences are and check that your system and procedures are organised according to this new standard.
