



# IDEST Torque

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## Volume 18, Issue No 3

August is here and we are over half way through 2018. Where does the time go?

In this issue we have a series of articles covering important aspects of our industry especially the coming of new ISO standards. These new standards will require new procedures for IDEST to standardise some aspects of its operation.

We have included a 'What If...' article that covers a few pertinent questions that are well worth considering and adopting where necessary.

## New ISO Standards coming

As many of you may know, a new ISO standard has been in the pipeline for some months now. This new standard will be published shortly under ISO 18119:2018 and will cover the inspection and testing of both steel and aluminium cylinders. This ISO 18119:2018 will supercede the current BS EN 1968:2002 and BS EN 1802:2002.

This standard states that a cylinder must have an annual Periodic Inspection (PI) or work under Local Regulations. The UK Diving Industry chaired by the HSE agreed to adopt a Risk Assessment approach, which means that diving cylinders in the UK must be risk assessed and depending on where and how they are used will determine the Periodic Inspection (PI) interval.

The Offshore, Inshore commercial diving industries, Police and MOD will specify the 6/12/24/or 30 month intervals they will work to.

Sport diving recreational cylinders will remain at a maximum 2.5-year visual inspection period. If a cylinder looks in poor condition when presented for filling apply the Risk Assessment approach and recommend a PI even if it's within date.

The other new standard just published is ISO 13769:2018 Gas Cylinders & Tubes – Stamp Marking which includes composite cylinders as well as steel and aluminium cylinders. Both of these new standards will be available soon from the Admin Office.

## New IDEST quadrant sticker

As a result of the new imminent ISO 18119:2018 standard coming, IDEST is re-designing the blue quadrant sticker. It is aimed to take into account all the suggestions that have come from our test centres.

Another concern is that the current quadrant stickers are occasionally fraudulently transferred from one cylinder to another. To address this issue, we will have the quadrant label made of a material that disintegrates if removal is attempted.

Once this new quadrant is produced it is expected that all IDEST Test Centres will purchase their quadrant stickers from the Admin Office. This will ensure that all centres are using a standard IDEST sticker and not printing their own versions locally. These labels are Trademarked and are the Intellectual Property of IDEST and will only be supplied with the centres name, address and ID stamp number. So if it's a plain label it's not one of ours.

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## Standardised Job Sheets

In addition to a standardised blue quadrant sticker IDEST will be producing a standardised Job Sheet that again ensures that every IDEST Test Centre will be recording the same information. Many centres record unnecessary information but miss out essential, important details. Other centres' job sheets contain information that the centre no longer covers, such as the thickness of zinc coating, crack detection information for aluminium cylinders, etc. A standardised job sheet will hopefully address many of these shortcomings and will make it easier for any investigations to be carried out knowing that all centres are working to the same identical cylinder test procedures.

Once this standardised documentation has been finalised it will be forwarded to all centres for them to use in future. It is hoped that this will streamline documentation across all IDEST centres.

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## Unmarked thread gauges

When assessing test centres, we are finding that we cannot match up specific thread gauges with a unique calibration certificate. Some gauges do not have any permanent unique identification marks on them. This means that a thread gauge being used may not be the one to which the dimensions on the calibration certificate refer to.

If your thread gauges do not have a permanent ID or serial number marked on them it is imperative that some unique mark is engraved. This is especially important when sending off thread gauges for calibration checking.

Some centres have a sticker with the serial number stuck on a box containing the gauge. This is prone to being lost and the gauge can't be identified. Any certificates without the identity of the thread gauge on it will not be accepted in the future.

It has been brought to our attention that some test centres are saying to their customers that if the valve fails then the whole system fails. This is incorrect. The Periodic Inspection (PI) is to check the integrity of the cylinder. The valve is serviced during a PI to ensure that it is back to the manufacturer's specification.

If the valve fails because of thread failure then a new cylinder valve must be offered to the customer.

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## What If...?

In 1985 Mike Todd formed IDEST in an attempt to ensure that the standard of cylinder testing was to a high quality and that each test centre was consistent in their approach. Over the years the number of IDEST test Centres has grown and the hope that all are testing to the same consistent high standard by following CP11:2011.

**What if**- this is not the case? **What if**- some centres were doing their own thing? In the past a few inspections have identified aspects that suggest some centres may not be closely following the IDEST Code of Practice CP11:2011 and their own company procedures.

**What if** - your centre has a booking-in form that does not have a signed declaration by the customer, agreeing to the policy of destroying their cylinder or valve in the event that it fails?

**What if** - your centre has a job-sheet that does not record all aspects of a high-quality inspection and test process?

**What if** - your centre technicians no longer carry out a wall thickness test and record it on the job-sheet, because it takes too long or the batteries in the machine need changing?

**What if** - the threads on the valve and cylinder are not cleaned first before using your expensive thread gauges to check the tolerance?

**What if** - your hydraulic test procedure states that you should stop pumping at two thirds of the cylinders test pressure to check the burettes reading is constant before proceeding to the test pressure and holding for at least 30 seconds and you are not doing this?

**What if** - your centre Procedures do not accurately reflect your current procedures because you have found improvements or short-cuts and not written them up?

**What if** - your technician uses the master pressure gauge for the hydraulic test because the working pressure gauge does not work?

**What if** - your centre does not check the working gauge against the master gauge every month and keep past comparison sheets in a folder as required by CP11:2011?

**What if** - your centre does not stamp the cylinder shoulder in the correct order as per the current standard ISO 13769 but does its own version?

**What if** - your centre does not bother to issue a test certificate, because the customers just dump them in the bin on their way out?

If you can identify that even ONE of these '**what ifs**' relates to your centre and its practices then it may be time to reassess what you are doing, read through the CP11:2011 document and relevant BS, EN and ISO standards to ensure you are still providing that consistent service that Mike Todd envisaged all those years ago.

These highlight some of the aspects that start to take your test centre away from good engineering practice and reduces the consistency expected across the group of IDEST Approved Test Centres. We need to ensure we are all doing the same thing to the same high standard.

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## Are you sealed?

Pat Oates has asked me to pass on her concerns that many self-sealing envelopes arrive at IDEST Admin Office open. So can you ensure that your envelopes are truly sealed, perhaps with sellotape, so that your cheques and documents do not fall out. Hate to lose your money!

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## Birchley Products - new owner

Birchley Products have sold their Business and the new company's details are below.

### **Octopus Test Systems**

**50 Earlsparck Drive**

**Bielside**

**Aberdeen**

**AB15 9AH**

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## IDEST Centre Update

Since the beginning of 2018 we have had a few changes to the IDEST Test Centre listing

### **Returning centres**


***Emerald Diving Ireland (8Y)*** has re-established his Test Centre in new premises following re-inspection.

### **New centres**

We would like to welcome onboard the following new centre

***Oxford Dive Centre (9G)***

### **Leaving centres**



The following IDEST Test Centres have either retired, closed down or have not met their re-inspection date and are not currently working under the IDEST scheme.

***Divers Warehouse (7M), Bradford***

***Croxley Divers (3B), Herts***

***Caldive Ltd (8Z), Inverness***

***Lambay Diving Services (5D), Dublin***

***A S Pressure Servicing (5U) Canvey Island***