

# Guidance on the marking of Scuba cylinders



**Inspectorate  
for  
Diving Equipment  
Servicing & Testing**

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**Working towards  
your diving safety**

## MARKING SCUBA CYLINDERS

### Introduction

The legislation covering breathing apparatus gas cylinders used underwater changed in 1996, with the coming into force of *The Carriage of Dangerous Goods (Classification, Packaging and Labelling) and Use of Transportable Pressure Receptacles Regulations 1996*.

### These regulations:

- Apply to goods (gases) which are used at work.
- Place duties on the employer of a person who fills cylinders, where the filler is at work.

They place duties on the employer to ensure that, prior to filling:

- the cylinder is safe to be filled
- checks ensure that it is 'in date' for periodic pressure test
- checks include external and internal inspection
- cylinder is suitable for containing the gas
- cylinder shows correct identification marking

### Cylinder Identification Standards

At about the same time, a series of European Cylinder Identification Standards was introduced, which has been adopted as British Standards. Some standards have been revised or replaced by International Standards.

### The current standards are:

#### **BS ISO 13769:2018—Gas Cylinders—Stamp-marking.**

After a periodic test, the test centre is required to stamp mark the cylinder with its

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unique centre stamp followed by the year TWO figures 22, a slash (/) and then the month (TWO figures 01 to 12).

### **BS EN ISO 7225:2007 + A1:2012—Gas cylinders—Precautionary labels**

The label should show:

- A GREEN hazard diamond for all breathing gases
- Additional YELLOW hazard diamond for gases with an oxygen content greater than air
- A panel for other information (gas mixture, agency logo/address/phone number)

The size and shape of the label are optional.

The preferred position for the label is on the shoulder but it is acceptable for it to be on the upper body of the cylinder.

There are standard colours to identify the contents of any cylinder. However, for diving, there may be other reasons for the colour of a cylinder body, such as visibility or contrast underwater or on the surface.

The legislation does not mandate the colour coding standard. However, it is encouraged that cylinders for air should have black and white quarters applied to the shoulder.

### **Standards for Periodic Testing and Inspection**

Standards have been introduced for the periodic inspection of cylinders.

These standards require that the test centre, on completion of the hydrostatic tests will apply:

- The correct identification marks for the gas the cylinder is going to contain. (A precautionary label is the minimum to satisfy this!)
- A label showing the year and month of the next periodic test/inspection.

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- The legislation states that " the purpose of using precautionary labels on gas cylinders is to facilitate the identification of each cylinder and its contents.
- The filler shall ensure that the attachment, removal or replacement of the label is in accordance with the cylinder contents. They should be firmly attached and maintained in a legible condition "
- Because cylinders are filled on professional outlets, from a compressor or a charging panel, where the filler or operator is deemed to "be at work" all cylinders shall be labelled to indicate their contents

### **NOTE**

Examples of appropriate labels for Air Compressed, Gas Compressed and Oxygen Compressed are shown at the back of this leaflet.



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