

Technical Information

HYDRO OR VISUAL? - CAN'T DECIDE

T014

Guidance on providing the correct type of inspection

When a cylinder comes into a centre and it has passed its due date for a visual, many centres are telling their customers that it MUST have a hydro. This is not necessarily correct.

Some years ago, IDEST spoke with the incumbent Head of HSE about this situation. Unfortunately, he is no longer with us, but he did give us some words of wisdom that IDEST passes on today.

From the date of any Periodic Inspection and Test (PIAT), or Hydro, the Standards say a cylinder must be re-hydro tested at the five-year anniversary of the previous hydro test. The Standards also say that the cylinder should undergo a Periodic Inspection (PI), or Visual, annually, to check it is fit to be used until the next PIAT. In the UK, based upon National Risk Assessment, the visual interval can be extended up to two and a half years.

On the 5 / 2½ year regimen, if a cylinder misses visual inspection, then common sense should prevail. If the cylinder is within a year to six months of the next hydro, then bring the hydro forward. When this situation happens, the five-year interval will commence from the date of the new hydro rather than the original one.

If the over-run of the visual is **up to eighteen months** from the date it should have taken place, then a visual can quite legitimately be carried out. The date of next test should be set to ensure the hydro happens on its correct 5-year anniversary. If the internal inspection shows potential problems, then a hydro test should be carried out.

Please ensure your centre uses this policy

Time frame:

