IDEST Worldwide Limited

Company Number 16357221

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

IDEST a UKAS Accredited Certification Body No. 0248 for ISO/IEC 17024:2012

Technical Information Sheet

ISO/IEC 17020 and ISO/IEC 17024

Guidance on differences between Industrial Gas Cylinders transported on the highway and those used in rescue, diving and other sporting pursuits.

Inspectorate for Diving Equipment Servicing and Testing

Following text copied verbatim from the version authorised for distribution by Vehicle Certification Agency (Dangerous Goods)

Foreword: Following a meeting between Directors of IDEST and Senior Management of VCA on Friday 3rd July [2026], VCA recognise the value of IDEST Worldwide Limited input with respect to the cylinder inspection and test sector. Cylinders within this sector are often owned and used by individuals and groups which do not necessarily fit into the category of "Transportable Gas Cylinders for Industrial Use". VCA Dangerous Good (Tanks) staff will point relevant enquiries towards IDEST for guidance and support.

This statement is to give clarity to the differences found in the maintenance of ISO/IEC 17020 Accreditation of Centres and Technicians conducting PIAT [Periodic Inspection and Test] to Industrial Gas Cylinders transported on the highway and those operating to ISO/IEC 17024 Certification of Technicians conducting PIAT [to gas cylinders] used in rescue, diving and other sporting pursuits.

Aspect	IDEST Certification	VCA Approval/Appointment
Purpose	Demonstrates a cylinder test centre, and the technicians working within it, operate to industry standards & procedures	Authorises an organisation to perform statutory conformity assessment and inspection functions for transportable pressure equipment.
Administered by	IDEST Worldwide Limited (Inspectorate for Diving Equipment Servicing & Testing)	Vehicle Certification Agency Dangerous Goods (VCA Tanks) on behalf of the Department for Transport.
Legal Status	Voluntary private limited company administering a UKAS accredited certification scheme for certification of technicians to ISO/IEC 17024. Widely recognised in breathing gas, diving cylinder and storage gas-cylinder sectors typically to 150 litre water capacity.	Statutory regulatory approval under the Carriage of Dangerous Goods Regulations (CDG) and ADR framework.

Office: IDEST Worldwide Ltd. The Bower, Parsonage Road, NEWTON FERRERS, S. Devon, PL8 1AT
Tel 07534 148108 admin@idest.co.uk www.idest.co.uk

Aspect	IDEST Certification	VCA Approval/Appointment
Main Focus	Competence of test centres and up to three technicians carrying out periodic inspection and testing (PIAT)	Legal conformity assessment, certification, inspection and reassessment of transportable pressure equipment.
Applicable Standards	BS EN ISO 18119, BS EN ISO 11623, BS EN ISO 22434 and associated standards referenced by ISO/IEC 17024, assessed by UK Accreditation Services (UKAS)	ADR, TPED/CDG requirements and associated conformity-assessment provisions referenced by ISO/IEC 17020, assessed by UK Accreditation Services (UKAS).
Typical Customer	Dive centres, breathing-air users, B-A and emergency escape set hire centres, Fire Service cylinders used for emergency purposes, Nautical Archaeology, Commercial, Military, Police & University cylinders, storage cylinders to 150 litre water capacity and sporting cylinder owners.	Manufacturers, inspection bodies, transportable pressure equipment operators and regulatory compliance organisations, inspection bodies under ISO/IEC 17020
Valves	Covers inspection, maintenance and replacement to ISO/IEC 22434	Does not cover valve maintenance. Valve replacement only.

Definitions of operation highlighted within this document

VCA – ISO/IEC 17020

- Industrial cylinders, often much heavier construction and carried on the highway for sale, hire, etc.
- Breathing gases, non-breathing gases, asphyxiant gases, cryogenic cylinders any liquids or powders.
- Cylinders requiring a cycle of 10-year to 15-year (by application) test procedures.
- Cylinders that are not subject to regular servicing of valves – not within scope.
- Cylinders/tubes fitted to vehicles.

IDEST Worldwide Ltd. – ISO/IEC 17024

- Cylinders used in the Fire Service for emergency use, support diving (Nautical Archaeology, Commercial, Military, Police & Universities), recreational diving and instruction sector and owned by individuals or groups for other sporting pursuit such as Paintball and Air gun use.
- Breathing Gases.
- Cylinders often used in marine environments and harsh conditions which may also require additional 6 monthly visual inspections.
- Cylinders requiring visual inspection and pressure testing on a regular inspection cycle of 2.5 and 5-years as specified in the latest Diving Sector Risk Assessment.
- Valves requiring regular inspection and testing through increased susceptibility to damage, use and abuse.

VCA Dangerous Goods (Tanks) and IDEST Worldwide Limited continue to work together, meeting regularly and sharing information to maintain clarity primarily within the United Kingdom.

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