

Guidance Note: Testing Air Gun Cylinders – 09/11.

Amendment 01 – 10/11.

This guidance answers various questions from members concerning the testing of “air gun cylinders”. We have confirmed the status of these cylinders with the HSE:

It is, normally, the type of valve fitted to the cylinder that determines the purpose of the cylinder and who can test it. However, the directive to which a cylinder is manufactured defines the testing regime. Cylinders for breathing apparatus are manufactured to PED and bear the CE mark. An air gun (including paint ball) cylinder will have either a valve or connection system that is intended for charging the cylinder with compressed breathing air, for example, a G 5/8” or International “A” Clamp, as used for breathing air or Scuba cylinders. Additionally, such cylinders will normally be filled from a breathing air compressor or decanting from a compressed air system. Therefore, although put to a slightly different use, these are to all intents and purposes a breathing air cylinders and are, therefore, subject to the same testing requirements as any other breathing air cylinder.

Note: We also confirmed, some time ago, the test periods for these cylinders. To recap:

It is the type of valve fitted that determines the re-test period.

- If the valve fitted can be used for scuba diving, the test period is 5 years **plus a visual inspection every 2.5 years.**
- If the valve fitted is intended for use on land only e.g., it has an integrated pressure gauge and bleed screw, the test period is 5 years.

This guidance is offered in good faith and is believed to be correct to the best of our knowledge. Nothing contained herein shall be deemed to override good practice, manufacturers' policies, the relevant Standards and the Law.

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