



Policy Statement

Oxygen Tank Compliance for EMS Agencies

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance on oxygen tank compliance for EMS agencies including maintenance of oxygen tanks. Recent routine ambulance inspections have identified expired hydrostatic testing on owned, leased or rented oxygen tanks in several different geographical areas. Many of the aluminum tanks were provided through a welding and/or oxygen delivery service and were received outside the five year window of testing.

Oxygen Cylinder Testing and Inspection

It is imperative that all tanks be inspected upon receipt of delivery to ensure the tank is within the allotted hydrostatic testing period. All types of oxygen cylinders must be hydrotested including steel, aluminum and composite cylinders.

Any cylinder placed in service by an EMS service, whether or not it is currently on a vehicle, must be within test requirements as evidenced by a valid hydrostatic test date imprinted on the cylinder. During an inspection, only oxygen tanks that have a valid hydrostatic test date are allowable based on safety concerns for oxygen delivery equipment.

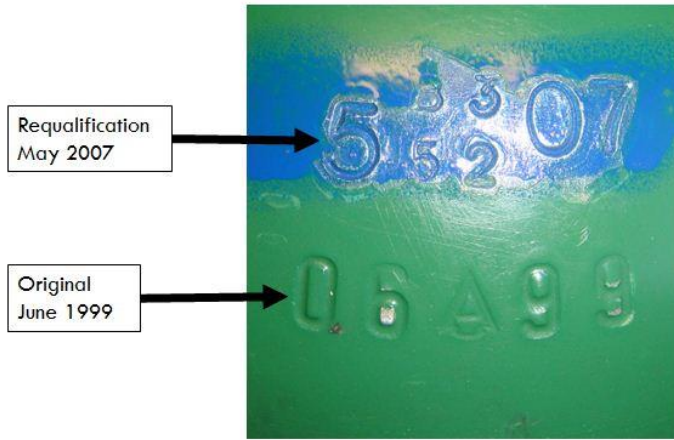
Part 800 States:

800.23(e) All pressurized gas cylinders shall be secured and in compliance with Federal DOT hydrostatic test expiration dates.

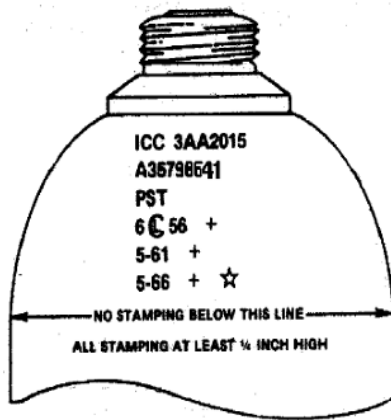
EMS field practitioners and EMS agencies are typically unable to provide adequate verifiable proof of the date that a specifically identified oxygen cylinder was filled and if the hydrostatic test date was valid when the tank was filled. Thus our Policy is to require that only oxygen cylinders with a valid hydrostatic test date will pass at either a field inspection or full service agency inspection. DOH requires that the EMS agency only places oxygen cylinders with a valid hydrostatic test date into service.

Below, are diagrams and examples of how to read an oxygen tank.

Hydrostatic Testing Dates



The above cylinder was originally tested in June 1999 and was requalified in May 2007. The picture below shows the tank would expire on May 2012. The cylinder does not have a star (☆) which would indicate it would not expire for 10 years from the date of the stamp. The tank should be removed from service until requalification of hydrostatic testing is completed once it expired.



Plus sign indicates cylinder may be overcharged 10%

5 - 66

Latest date indicates last cylinder retest



Five pointed star symbol indicates a ten year retest interval

Examples:

Vertical Alignment:

DOT-3AA 2015

1234567

XY Corp

8 @ 08 + ☆

Horizontal Alignment:

DOT-3AA 2015 1234567 XY Corp 8 @ 08 + ☆

Meanings:

DOT = Department of Transportation

3AA = Seamless alloy-steel cylinder
2015 = 2015 psig fill pressure
1234567 = Serial number of cylinder
XY Corp = Manufacture of cylinder
8 ® 08 = Month and Year of test, in this example, August 2008, the
symbol of the inspector is commonly placed between month and year (®
used as example only)
+ = Cylinder maximum fill pressure can be 10% above 2015 psig or
2216.5 psig
☆ = Cylinder may be tested every 10 years versus the standard 5 years

Services should take all necessary measures to ensure cylinder integrity. Specific attention should be given to the following areas concerning oxygen cylinders in addition to hydrostatic testing:

- a. Cylinder leaks, abnormal bulging, defective or inoperative valves or safety devices.
- b. Physical presence of rust or corrosion on a cylinder or cylinder neck.
- c. Any foreign substances or residues, such as from adhesive tape around the cylinder neck, oxygen valve or regulator assembly. The presence of these materials may hamper the ability of the oxygen delivery equipment to work properly and in some cases may have the potential to cause fire or explosion.

If any questions remain, please speak with your oxygen vendor or Bureau of EMS District Chief Investigator.

Please be aware, Bureau of EMS staff may not endorse or recommend any oxygen vendor or supplier, but rather assist with the comprehension and compliance of the regulation.