



## MAINTENANCE BULLETIN

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**DATE: March 14, 2007**

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### MB 07-001

#### Maintenance and Testing Procedures for Self Contained Breathing

##### Apparatus and Related Equipment

When Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) equipment needs repair or testing a Red Repair Tag shall be filled out and attached to the defective equipment. The Company Officer shall complete repair tag itself and the first perforated section on the end of the tag and retain the perforated portion of the tag for their record. Once the defective piece of equipment has been tagged, the equipment shall be placed in the drop-off/pick-up section in the apparatus bay area. The equipment shall be picked-up/replaced by warehouse personnel when making weekly supply deliveries. Warehouse personnel will carry spare cylinders and SCBA equipment with them on deliveries when such equipment is available. SCBA equipment can also be dropped off at the HCFR Warehouse. Warehouse personnel will issue replacement equipment if the equipment is available.

All SCBA cylinders require hydrostatic testing as required by 49 CFR 180.205. To determine if an SCBA cylinder is due for testing, inspect the Hydrostatic Testing Label located on the cylinder. If the cylinder does not have a Hydrostatic Testing Label then the cylinders manufacture date shall be used to determine if testing is warranted.



Hydrostatic Testing Label



Manufacture Date of Cylinder (March 2004)

The frequency of the testing depends upon the cylinder material as described in the paragraphs below:



← Fully wrapped fiberglass cylinders should be tested **every three (3) years**. They have a 15-year service life. Color: Yellow.

**NOTE:** Fiberglass wrapped cylinders were bought in the early 1990's by the department and close attention should be paid to the manufacture date due to the fact that these cylinders are rapidly approaching their 15-year service life.



← Fully wrapped Kevlar cylinders should be tested **every three (3) years**. They have a 15-year service life. Color: Light Tan



← Fully wrapped carbon fiber cylinders should be tested **every five (5) years**. They have a 15-year service life. Color: Grey

In order to determine if a cylinder requires hydrostatic testing simply add three (3) years from last test date for fiberglass and kevlar wrapped cylinders, and five (5) years to the last test date for carbon wrapped cylinders. Personnel should notify warehouse personnel at least **30 days** prior to expiration of hydrostatic testing dates. This will allow for cylinder exchanges before the hydrostatic date expires. Cylinders shall be taken out of service if the hydrostatic test date has expired. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Cylinders should not be filled or used if they have exceeded their valid service life or re-test dates. Cylinders which show evidence of exposure to high heat or flames (paint turned to a brown or black color, decals missing or gauge lens melted, need to be removed from service and re-hydrostatic tested prior to recharging. If there is any doubt about the suitability of the cylinder for recharge, it should be immediately taken out of service for testing.

This bulletin is also posted on the department's website. You can review it on-line by going to [www.horrycountyfirerescue.com](http://www.horrycountyfirerescue.com). It is filed under the Member's Only/Member Information menu in the Admin Communications section.