



## High Pressure Air - Paintball Safety Information Guide (HPA 1)

### Basic Guidelines

- Never under any circumstances dismantle your bottle regulator.
- Remember the test date on your bottle is not the be all and end all, just because your bottle is in date does not mean that it is safe. If you have tampered with the regulator you should not use or fill your cylinder until it has been inspected by a competent person approved by the manufacturer.
- Pressure vessels should be inspected annually by the competent person approved by the manufacturer. Get in touch with the manufacturer to find out who they are. Although this may not be law, it is highly recommended.
- People who have played for years are NOT competent people approved by the manufacturer. Competent is meant in the legal sense, not in the sense that someone is good at something.
- Protect the fibre wrap on your bottle with a bottle cover, any nicks in the fibre wrap mean the bottle is useless and should be destroyed.
- Always fit a dust cover on the fill nipple of your bottle to stop dirt getting into the regulator, or the filling station. Dirt is the number one reason for nipple "O" rings leaking and faults with the reg.
- Never ever use oil or grease anywhere near the fill nipple. If your fill nipple is leaking, send it off to the manufacturer to replace, you are not qualified to change the "O" ring yourself
- Make sure that the source of air that you use to fill your bottle is set to deliver air slowly. Bottle fires require heat to occur, the slower the bottle fills, the less likelihood there is for heat to be generated. Your bottle should take around 30 seconds for a 0.8L 3000psi to fill, and much longer for a 4500psi 1.1 or 1.5. Be especially careful if you are using an unregulated fill station attached to a dive bottle.
- If your regulator was thread locked on when you bought it, and for some reason you have removed the regulator from the bottle, maybe to fly to another country, the chances are that you have damaged the threads in the bottle and it could be useless. If this is the case, please contact the manufacturer of the bottle and ask them to give you the details for the person who can measure the threads for you to make sure they are still in tolerance.
- Regulators should NEVER be screwed in hand tight to the bottle. All regulators must be torqued tight to the manufacturer's specifications; again these will be available from the manufacturer.
- Never under any circumstances use oil or grease in or around your regulator. It is especially important to ensure that the fill nipple on your regulator is free of oil and grease. Oil or grease increase the risk of a bottle fire which can occur under certain conditions, especially when the bottle is being filled too fast and heat is being produced as a result of the high flow of air.
- Your bottle has a date either stamped into it, or laminated under the surface. This date is very important. Bottles need to be hydrostatically tested at set intervals to be used legally in the UK. On the reverse of this guide are details of test dates specific to your bottle Please remember that it is YOU who is legally responsible for the maintenance and compliance of your pressure equipment, not the place you go to have the bottle filled or the manufacturer of the equipment.
- Under no circumstances should you hold a stream of air against your skin. On/Off valves enable users to vent their cylinders, if you do vent your cylinder (for traveling etc), you must keep the air flow away from your skin. A medical condition known as an embolism could occur if the air flow travels through your skin and into your blood supply. An embolism can be fatal.



FIVE YEARS FOR FULL-FIBRE WRAPPED BOTTLES - EN12245 and Pi certified.

THREE YEARS FOR FULL WRAPPED BOTTLES - HSE-AL-FW2 manufactured before July 2003 then five years after re-testing for SCI and Luxfer cylinders

THREE YEARS FOR FULL WRAPPED BOTTLES - HSE-AL-FW1

FIVE YEARS FOR HALF WRAP BOTTLES

FIVE YEARS FOR ALUMINUM OR STEEL BOTTLES

Notes and amendments

The new European regulations (TPED) came onto the statute book in July 2003 and at that point the UK specification HSE-AL-FW2 became obsolete ie. No new cylinders could be produced to this specification for the UK market.

From July 2003, the European standard EN 12245 became the only acceptable specification for new cylinders.

All cylinders manufactured and certified to the HSE-AL-FW2 specification prior to July 2003 and retested after July 2003 have their re test period extended from 3 to 5 years at their next re test. If you have a cylinder manufactured before July 2003 then you need to have it tested 3 years from the original manufactured date. The re-certified cylinder will then need re testing after a further five year period.

All cylinders manufactured to EN 12245 and Pi certified to comply with the TPED start with a re test period of 5 years from date of manufacture.

Steel and Aluminum cylinders

In March 2002, European standards for cylinder testing were changed. The familiar old BS 5430 part 1 (steel cylinders) & part 3 (aluminum) were withdrawn and replaced by new standards - BS EN 1968:2002 for Steel Gas Containers, and BS EN 1802:2002 for Aluminum Gas Containers.

It should be added that any other cylinders manufactured and certified to other specifications e.g. DOT are not legal in the UK

At the end of the cylinders working life, the cylinder should be destroyed as extensions cannot be made.

All air systems should be transported empty.

The filling of Paintball Cylinders should not be done by anyone under the age of 18.

**Remember Safety Starts With YOU**