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# Gas cylinders — Inspection of the cylinder installation, and requalification of high pressure cylinders for the on-board storage of natural gas as a fuel for automotive vehicles

*Bouteilles à gaz — Inspection de l'installation de bouteilles, et la requalification des bouteilles haute pression pour le stockage à bord des véhicules automobiles du gaz naturel utilisé comme combustible*

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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

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ISO 19078 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 58, *Gas cylinders*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Operational requirements for gas cylinders*.

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## Introduction

This International Standard provides information and procedures for the periodic visual examination and inspection of natural gas fuel cylinders and the condition of the installation. These cylinders are installed in vehicles and are certified by the manufacturer to meet the requirements of ISO 11439. This International Standard may be used for the inspection of other natural gas fuel cylinders that are certified to meet other specifications and standards with the approval of the national authority of use. These cylinders are designed to store natural gas at high pressures. This International Standard requires that appropriate information, such as an installation and maintenance manual from the cylinder manufacturer, be reviewed and used during the inspection, together with all current cylinder manufacturer's recommendations and guidance documents.

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# Gas cylinders — Inspection of the cylinder installation, and requalification of high pressure cylinders for the on-board storage of natural gas as a fuel for automotive vehicles

## 1 Scope

This International Standard specifies the requirements for the inspection of the installation and requalification of high pressure cylinders designed and manufactured to ISO 11439 or other equivalent national standards for the on-board storage of natural gas as a fuel for automotive vehicles. The purpose of this document is to provide guidance for the inspection of these cylinders in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations and to provide criteria for the acceptance or rejection in the absence of guidance from the manufacturer with subsequent disposition as necessary.

## 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 11439:2000, *Gas cylinders — High pressure cylinders for the on-board storage of natural gas as a fuel for automotive vehicles* <https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/55b182ba-106c-4721-aa5e-44d30bd0d8d9/iso-dis-19078>

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this International Standard, the following terms and definitions apply.

### 3.1

#### **abrasion**

damage to cylinder or equipment caused by wearing, grinding or rubbing away of material by friction

NOTE Abrasion may be the result of many cycles of something rubbing lightly on the surface of the cylinder or equipment or due to a few cycles, perhaps only one, of heavy rubbing.

### 3.2

#### **impact**

forceful blow to the surface of the cylinder that may cut, gouge or significantly indent the surface

NOTE Impact may also induce such damage as delaminations, which are not readily apparent by visual examination.

### 3.3

#### **condemned**

cylinder or piece of equipment no longer fit for service and for which rework is not allowed

### 3.4

#### **crazing**

hairline cracking of the resin giving it an opaque, "frosty" appearance

**3.5**

**cut**

damage caused by a sharp object coming into contact with a composite surface

**3.6**

**delamination**

form of composite damage in which a separation develops between layers of the composite

NOTE Delaminations usually result from excessive localized loading normal to the surface of the laminate.

**3.7**

**destroyed**

alteration of a fuel cylinder or piece of equipment to make it physically unusable

**3.8**

**domes**

curved end portions of the fuel cylinder

**3.9**

**external coating**

clear or coloured surface treatment applied to the cylinder for environmental protection and/or improved appearance

**3.10**

**helical**

winding in the longitudinal circumferential direction for both the cylindrical and dome regions of the cylinder

NOTE The strands of reinforcing fibres are oriented at an angle to the longitudinal axis of the cylinder.

**3.11**

**hoop direction**

**hoop pattern**

winding in the cylindrical region of the cylinder

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NOTE The strands of reinforcing fibres are oriented at an angle of nearly 90 degrees to the longitudinal axis of the cylinder.

**3.12**

**inspection body**

individual or organization that performs the visual inspection of compressed natural gas (CNG) cylinders used in natural gas vehicles (NGVs)

**3.13**

**inspection mark**

mark, label or tag placed by an inspector on the cylinder indicating acceptance of the cylinder

**3.14**

**Level 1 damage**

**Level 1 condition**

minor damage that may occur during normal use

NOTE Such damage should have no adverse effects on the safety of the cylinder and its continued use. Scratched paint or nicks that have no appreciable depth in metal or similar damage in the composite, cylinder paint or resin where there are no visible frayed fibres are considered to be in this level of damage (see Table 1).

**3.15**

**Level 2 damage**

**Level 2 condition**

damage that is more severe than Level 1 but keeps open the possibilities of rework or the container returned to service based on the recommendations of the manufacturer



NOTE Level 2 conditions may be deeper, longer or more severe than those of Level 1, but are allowed by the manufacturer by test results (see 7.4.5). Level 2 conditions are either reworked to the manufacturer's acceptable condition or evaluated to be Level 3 and condemned (see Table 1).

### 3.16

#### **Level 3 damage**

#### **Level 3 condition**

damage that requires a cylinder to be condemned

NOTE A Level 3 condition is such that the cylinder must be rendered unfit for continued service and cannot be reworked (see Table 1).

### 3.17

#### **liner**

internal component of the cylinder that prevents leakage of gas through the composite cylinder structure

### 3.18

#### **manufacturer**

cylinder manufacturer, unless otherwise stated

### 3.19

#### **marking(s)**

cylinder marking(s) containing the information required by the appropriate standard or regulation

### 3.20

#### **mounting brackets and/or straps**

devices used to secure fuel cylinders in a vehicle

### 3.21

#### **overpressurization**

pressures exceeding those allowed during the filling procedures specified in ISO 11439

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### 3.22

#### **pressure relief device**

#### **PRD**

device that will release the contained gas in specific emergency conditions

NOTE The PRD may be activated by excessive temperature, excessive internal pressure, or both.

### 3.23

#### **regulatory authority**

national entity or entities that have jurisdiction to specify requirements for the cylinders and equipment addressed in this International Standard

### 3.24

#### **reinforcing fibres**

continuous fibrous strands such as carbon, aramid and glass in the composite that withstand loads caused by pressurization

### 3.25

#### **rejected cylinder**

cylinder or equipment that shall be removed from service (i.e. de-installed from the vehicle)

NOTE For Level 2 damage, the cylinder is evaluated further before reworking or condemning. For Level 3 damage, the cylinder or equipment is subsequently condemned.

### 3.26

#### **resin**

material that is used to bind and hold the fibres in place

NOTE It is usually a thermoplastic or thermosetting resin.

**3.27**

**working pressure**

settled pressure at a uniform temperature of 15 °C marked on the cylinder

**3.28**

**stress corrosion cracking**

**SCC**

phenomenon resulting in a split or rift in the materials caused by a combination of load and aggressive environment

NOTE Such cracks in composite materials are typically sharply defined and perpendicular to the fibre direction. They may appear as a family of cracks or as a single crack.

**3.29**

**valve**

device installed in one of the threaded openings of the cylinder that is used to regulate gas flow into or from the cylinder

NOTE A manual valve is turned on or off with a handle. A solenoid valve is turned on or off electronically. Some solenoid valves may be operated manually with special tools.

**3.30**

**vent line**

high pressure line used to conduct gas from a pressure relief device to a location outside the vehicle where gas may be discharged safely

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**4 Background information**

**4.1 General**

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NGV fuel cylinders may be designed and qualified to one of a number of appropriate specifications or standards. This includes, but is not limited to, ISO 11439. These cylinders have markings that identify the standards to which they are built and identify the type of construction used.

**4.2 Cylinder types and descriptions**

**4.2.1 CNG-1 metal**

CNG-1 cylinders are all metallic and can be of any alloy of steel or aluminium that meets qualification requirements outlined in the appropriate design standard.

**4.2.2 CNG-2 metal liner partially reinforced with resin impregnated continuous filament (hoop-wrapped)**

CNG-2 cylinders have a metallic liner with sufficient strength and thickness to carry the entire longitudinal load at the required burst pressure and to withstand the standard-specified factor of the nominal working pressure without rupture. Metal liner materials are those identified under CNG-1 cylinders (see 4.2.1). They are reinforced with fibres wound only in the hoop (circumferential) direction. Reinforcing fibres are carbon, aramid, glass or combinations thereof.

**4.2.3 CNG-3 metal liner totally reinforced with resin impregnated continuous filament (fully wrapped)**

CNG-3 cylinders have a metallic liner that is generally load-carrying but they do not have sufficient strength and thickness to carry the longitudinal load at the burst pressure. They are reinforced with fibres wound in both a helical (polar) and hoop pattern. Reinforcing fibres are carbon, aramid, glass or combinations thereof. Metal liner materials are those identified under CNG-1 cylinders (see 4.2.1).

#### 4.2.4 CNG-4 non-metallic liner totally reinforced with resin impregnated continuous filament (all composite)

CNG-4 cylinders have a non-metallic liner that does not carry load. The liner is typically a thermoplastic material. Reinforcing fibres are carbon, aramid, glass or combinations thereof. They are reinforced with fibres wound in both a helical (polar) pattern and hoop direction. Metallic bosses are used to accept valves or PRDs. Boss materials are typically aluminium or stainless steel.

#### 4.3 Required marking information

The appropriate standard shall be reviewed for exact wording required and the requirements for letter sizes.

The following marking information required in ISO 11439 shall be verified:

- a) "CNG ONLY";
- b) "DO NOT USE AFTER XX/XXXX", (providing the month and year of expiry);
- c) manufacturer's identification;
- d) cylinder identification (a serial number unique for every cylinder);
- e) working pressure at temperature;
- f) ISO standard, along with cylinder type and certification registration number (if applicable);
- g) approved PRD type;
- h) date of manufacture (month and year);
- i) any additional markings as required by the regulatory authority of the country(ies) of use.

When labels are used, all cylinders shall have a unique identification number and the manufacturer's name stamped on an exposed metal surface to permit tracing in the event that the label is destroyed.

#### 4.4 Additional marking

The following additional information may be included:

- a) specific PRDs and valves approved for use with the cylinder;
- b) operating temperature range;
- c) nominal water capacity;
- d) initial pressure test date;
- e) inspector's mark.

### 5 Inspection body and inspectors

The inspection body shall be certified in the country of use. See Annex A for an example of minimum inspector qualifications.

In order to assure all concerned that the cylinders are fit for continued safe use, the inspection shall be carried out only by persons who are competent in the subject (see Annex A). The inspector shall have the equipment described in Clause 6 and documentation referenced in 7.3.2 available and within easy access during the

inspection. The vehicle to be inspected shall be positioned such that access to the surface of the cylinder is unimpeded to the inspector or positioned according to the vehicle manufacturer (see 7.4.2). If the inspector finds areas as described in Clause 7 that require additional inspection or testing, the cylinder shall be depressurized following recommendations in Annex B and the manufacturer's instructions, then removed from the vehicle. If the inspector determines that the cylinder necessitates permanent removal from service, it shall be carried out in accordance with Clause 9.

## 6 Inspection equipment

**6.1 Adequate light**, capable of brightly illuminating all surfaces shall be used, to properly examine the external surfaces of cylinders, mounting brackets, valves, vent lines, etc.

**CAUTION — To avoid combustion or fire, use explosion-proof lights or be sure the area is well ventilated.**

**6.2 Inspection mirrors**, angled, or other suitable devices to aid in the examination of cylinder surfaces that are partially concealed by the installation.

**6.3 Hand tools**, various, necessary for the removal of covers, shields or other installed equipment so that the external cylinder surfaces, brackets, valves, PRDs and other components can be viewed.

**6.4 Torque wrench**, to verify that the mounting bracket bolts are tightened properly.

**6.5 Depth gauge**, to determine the depth of cuts, pits and abrasions. It is recommended that a commercial type pit or depth gauge be used for this purpose. Alternatively, equipment to estimate imperfection depths is acceptable.

**6.6 Rule and straightedge**, in combination, for evaluating indentations and bulges.

**6.7 Rule or tape measure**, for determining the length of noted cuts and the general area of abrasion.

**6.8 Commercial-type leak test fluid** (NOT containing ammonia, harsh corrosives or chemicals incompatible with the system materials) or a **methane gas detector**, to test for leakage. The fluid is usually a mild soap solution that meets the above criteria. Additional information is provided in 7.4.8.

## 7 Cylinder and equipment inspection

### 7.1 Inspection interval

**CAUTION — Failure to perform diligent and accurate inspections on a regular basis or promptly (in the case of a potentially damaging incident or unusual behaviour) may result in a serious accident causing severe damage or injury or both.**

NGV fuel storage systems shall be visually inspected by a qualified inspection body (see Clause 5) at intervals of 36 months or less (see Annex C). The country of use may require more frequent visual inspections.

### 7.2 Conditions requiring immediate inspection

An inspection shall be performed prior to filling or returning a CNG cylinder to service if:

- a) the fuel cylinder or vehicle in which it is installed is involved in a fire;
- b) the fuel cylinder is exposed to excessive heat;
- c) the fuel cylinder is dropped or subjected to impact;
- d) the NGV is in a collision;