

October 7, 1999

NOAA DIVING SAFETY BULLETIN #99-01

MEMORANDUM FOR: All NOAA Divers

FROM: David A. Dinsmore
Director, NOAA Diving Program

Subject: New policy concerning inspection and replacement of Luxfer scuba cylinders

Effective immediately, Luxfer requires that every Luxfer scuba cylinder 15 years old or older be visually inspected annually by a properly trained inspector, as well as inspected with Visual Plus or equivalent non-destructive testing equipment. If the cylinder passes the inspection, it will be certified for use by the inspector. Cylinders that are not inspected and not certified should not be used. Cylinders that fail the inspection should be removed from service.

This Luxfer-required inspection is in addition to periodic hydrostatic retesting mandated by the U.S. Department of Transportation (every five years.) NOAA requires that cylinders be visually inspected at least once each year by a properly trained inspector. For cylinders in heavy use (for example, those being filled several times a day), Luxfer recommends visual inspection every four months.

If a properly inspected scuba cylinder is found to have either a manufacturing defect or sustained-load cracking, Luxfer will honor the following replacement policy:

- If the cylinder is 10 years old or less (based on the original hydrotest date), Luxfer will replace the cylinder at no charge. Luxfer will not replace cylinders that have been damaged in normal use or due to abuse or mistreatment.
- If the cylinder is more than 10 years old, the customer may purchase an equivalent replacement cylinder for US\$50 for cylinders manufactured in the United States. For Luxfer aluminum cylinders manufactured elsewhere, the purchase price will be determined in the country of origin based on local currency rates.

A manufacturing defect[®] is any imperfection that fails to meet product specifications at the time of manufacture.

The new policy applies only to Luxfer scuba cylinders, not to Luxfer cylinders used in other applications.

Although Luxfer helped develop Visual Plus inspection technology, they are not affiliated with Visual Plus and do not derive profits from the sale of Visual Plus units.

For more information about the new scuba policy or Luxfer scuba products, please contact Luxfer Gas Cylinders, 3016 Kansas Avenue, Riverside, Calif. 92507 USA; telephone 909-684-5110, fax 909-781-6598.