



Life Extension of Carbon Fiber Cylinders using Modal Acoustic Emission (MAE) requalification

On April 21, 2017, the United States Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) announced that it had "issued a special permit, DOT-SP 16320, to authorize the extension of the 15 year service of certain carbon fiber reinforced aluminum-lined cylinders (DOT-CFFC) that are used in self-contained breathing apparatuses by fire departments and first responders." The service life of these cylinders can be extended in 5 year increments, up to an additional 15 years (for a total of 30 years of service life), through the use of Modal Acoustic Emissions (MAE) testing.

Luxfer Gas Cylinders, a global supplier of breathing air cylinders to Interspiro as well as other SCBA manufacturers, has issued a formal statement regarding the life extension of DOT-CFFC carbon wrapped cylinders by means of MAE testing that includes:

- Luxfer 15-year SCBA cylinders are designed and approved in the U.S. (Special Permit 10915) and Canada for a 15-year service life, and Luxfer accordingly issues a 15-year warranty for the full service life of each cylinder it manufactures.
- Luxfer cannot accept responsibility or liability for use of Luxfer-manufactured cylinders beyond the 15-year service life for which they were designed, nor does the Luxfer cylinder warranty extend beyond 15 years.

Interspiro SCBA NIOSH Approvals and NFPA Certifications are granted for the entire Interspiro SCBA and do not include any cylinders requalified under DOT SP-16320 issued to Digital Wave Corporation.

Therefore, Interspiro cannot take responsibility or liability for use of 15 year service life cylinders beyond their 15 year life as part of an Interspiro SCBA.

Using an MAE DOT-SP 16320 requalified cylinder as part of an Interspiro SCBA, voids the NIOSH Approval and NFPA Certification.

If you have any questions please contact Interspiro at 262-947-9901 or any Interspiro Regional Sales Manager.

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