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## Importing paintball cylinders

Paintball cylinders which can hold compressed air or carbon dioxide can be dangerous and need to be managed safely. All cylinders with a capacity over 500 ml are regulated under the Health and Safety at Work (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2017. The Regulations cover cylinders and any fittings, such as valves, regulators and adaptors.

### 'You' – the PCBU

This fact sheet is for persons conducting a business or undertaking (PCBUs) who import paintball cylinders into New Zealand. In this sheet, 'you' means the PCBU.

A PCBU is an individual or a company but it can also be other types of organisations. More information on PCBUs and other duty holders in the workplace and their duties is available on our website: [worksafe.govt.nz](http://worksafe.govt.nz)

### Cylinder approval

All paintball cylinders with a capacity over 500 ml need to be approved for use in New Zealand. This means you need to make sure your cylinders have the appropriate compliance certificates.

There are two ways you can import cylinders into New Zealand.

1. Importing cylinders that are designed, constructed, tested and marked according to the United Nations Recommendations for the Transport of Dangerous Goods – Model Regulations 2015 (UNRTDG).
2. Importing non-UNRTDG cylinders.

### Importing UNRTDG cylinders

If your cylinders have the appropriate UN markings, you only need a compliance certificate from an authorised compliance certifier when each batch of cylinders is imported into New Zealand.

#### Importing non-UNRTDG cylinders

If your paintball cylinders do not have UN markings you need to make sure you have the following compliance certificates.

##### 1. A design verification certificate

Check to see if your cylinder has been previously approved to a WorkSafe design standard. If your cylinder has not been approved, you will need to apply for a design verification certificate.

All approved gas cylinders have a record number (LAB number).

The following LAB numbers relate to paintball cylinders:

LAB NUMBER	MANUFACTURER	APPROVED FOR
2046	Luxfer	High pressure air (HPA)
2153	Catalina	Carbon Dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> )
2154	Catalina	Carbon Dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> )
2089	SCI	High pressure air (HPA)
2090	SCI	High pressure air (HPA)
2209	Shanghai	High pressure air (HPA)
2190	Catalina	High pressure air (HPA)

To find out if your cylinder is approved, check the *Gas cylinder record page* on our [website](#).

## 2. A manufacturing certificate

Each batch of cylinders must be inspected at the time of manufacture by a recognised inspection agency. The inspection agency issues a manufacturing certificate to confirm the cylinder has been manufactured according to the approved design. The certificate must precede, or accompany, each shipment of cylinders into New Zealand.

A list of recognised cylinder inspection agencies is available on our [website](#).

## 3. A pre-commissioning certificate

When you import cylinders into New Zealand for the first time, you will need to apply for a pre-commissioning certificate from an authorised compliance certifier. Pre-commissioning checks that the construction of the cylinders and its measurements complies with the approved design.

## 4. A compliance certificate for the imported cylinder

Each shipment of cylinders needs a compliance certificate before the cylinders can be supplied for sale. This certificate confirms that the cylinders comply with the approved design, have the correct markings, are not damaged and have passed the relevant tests and inspections (the manufacturing certificate).

## Exemption from compliance certifications

If you are importing small numbers of cylinders for specialised use you can apply to WorkSafe for an exemption from each of the design verification, pre-commissioning and the compliance certificates. A fee is charged for the application. You must apply for this exemption through an authorised cylinder test station.

The application form for an exemption for a special cylinder is available on our [website](#).

## How do I get a compliance certificate?

Design verification, manufacturing and compliance certificates are issued by compliance certifiers.

You can find a list of authorised compliance certifiers on our [website](#).

## How often does my cylinder need to be tested?

You need to test your cylinders regularly to ensure they are safe to use. The time between tests will vary depending on the construction of your cylinder and the gas it contains.

For example, fibre-wrapped composite cylinders should be inspected every three years, while aluminium cylinders need to be inspected every five years. You can check the inspection period for your cylinder in our *Guide to Gas Cylinders* available on our website.

## Who can test my cylinder?

Cylinders must be inspected and tested at an approved cylinder test station.

You can find a list of approved cylinder test stations on our [website](#).

## Who can fill my cylinder?

Check that your gas filler is approved and holds a compliance certificate appropriate to the gas your cylinder contains.

Approved cylinders must only be filled with compressed gases by an approved filler.

An approved filler holds a compliance certificate that confirms they are competent to fill cylinders.

The certificate identifies the types and classes of gases, as well as the types of containers the filler is approved for.

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