

A free guide from www.haztec.co.nz

What do I need to do if I want to import gas cylinders?

Glad you asked! It can be quite a process, so let me take you through it step by step.

What are the rules?

Cylinders intended to be filled and used in NZ must only be designed, manufactured and imported in accordance with Part 2 of the Hazardous Substances (Compressed gases) Regulations 2004.

What are the steps?

Step 1

Check that your intended cylinder design is already approved for NZ by searching the Gas Cylinder Register on <http://www.epa.govt.nz/Publications/Register%20of%20Gas%20Cylinders.xls>. *If you have a match, go to Step 3.*

Step 2

If your intended cylinder design doesn't appear on the Gas Cylinder Register you will need to have the design verified and a LAB approval number allocated by an Approved Cylinder Design Verifier in NZ. HazTec recommends **Roger Marshall** of **RSM Consultants**:

Tel: 04 293 1017
Mob: 027 403 5877
email: api650@xtra.co.nz
PO Box 193, Waikanae

You will need to submit the following information from the manufacturer or supplier:

- Full drawings and specifications for the cylinder design
- The test report from a recognised independent inspection agency/Third Party appointed by the manufacturer, e.g. Lloyds, SGS, Bureau Veritas, TUV, Arrowhead, Cochrane
- A list or schematic diagram of intended cylinder markings

Once Roger, or your chosen Approved Cylinder Design Verifier, is happy with your cylinder design he/she will issue a Design Verification test certificate and notify EPA NZ, who will in turn allocate a LAB approval number for the design. You can now order your first shipment!

NB: It is normally expected that the cylinder manufacturer will include the LAB number in the cylinder markings before the cylinders are shipped. (The LAB number can be added once the cylinders are imported and before they are released for distribution, but this can be a bit of a process and needs to be carried out by a Cylinder Testing Station. It seldom looks as good as when the manufacturer does it so try to avoid having to do it this way if you can!)

Step 3

The initial shipment of an approved cylinder design will first need to be inspected by HazTec as Cylinder Pre-commissioning test certifiers. *If the cylinder design has already been pre-commissioned, go to Step 5.* Otherwise, we will need to then select at random two or three cylinders to undergo destructive Type Testing at an accredited cylinder testing laboratory in NZ.

The nature of the tests required and the number of cylinders to be submitted for testing will be determined by the design verifier in accordance with the particular standard to which the cylinders are designed, but it will normally be either two or three cylinders. You should therefore allow for three extra cylinders in your first order.

The following two laboratories currently carry out type testing:

Materials and Testing laboratories Ltd
172G Marua Rd, Mt Wellington, Auckland
Tel: 09 579 0262
Email: mtlabs@xtra.co.nz

Tank Test
30 Glasgow Ave, Manukau City
Tel: 09 277 4360
Email: tanktest@paradise.co.nz

Note 1: Prices for Type Testing vary considerably depending on the test required, and should therefore be discussed with your selected laboratory.

Note 2: In certain circumstances the requirement for type testing may be waived, e.g. a small number of cylinders ordered (normally less than 10) with no foreseeable re-order; special purpose cylinders arriving pre-installed in equipment or pre-charged, etc. If you think your cylinders may qualify for a waiver you should contact HazTec to discuss.

Step 4

Upon completion of type testing you will receive a test report from the laboratory. You will need to forward a copy of the test report to HazTec; we will then issue a Gas Cylinder Pre-commissioning test certificate. Your first shipment is now 'Go' for the road!

Step 5

Each subsequent shipment of a cylinder design needs to be inspected by a cylinder test certifier such as HazTec. As part of the inspection we will need a copy of the manufacturer's certificate covering the particular shipment including a list of the cylinder serial numbers. We will then issue a Gas Cylinder Import test certificate and then you'll be 'Go' for these.

At HazTec we have considerable experience in most aspects concerning gas cylinders. Our goal is always to be accurate, factual and professional as we assist you through the cylinder approval pathway. We look forward to being of further assistance.

Mike Nankivell

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