



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Pipeline and Hazardous
Materials Safety Administration

Office of Hazardous
Materials Enforcement
Eastern Region

820 Bear Tavern Road
Suite 306
West Trenton, NJ
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March 8, 2011

ADVISORY LETTER

To whom it may concern:

Purpose: The purpose of this advisory letter is to communicate potentially unsafe conditions of compressed gas cylinders that were requalified by Oprandy's Fire and Safety Equipment, Inc., Florida, NY (OFSE).

Background: The Hazardous Materials Regulations (49 CFR) require that cylinders used for transportation of compressed gases be subjected to periodic inspection and testing. OFSE is an approved cylinder retester, operating with the retester identification number (RIN) C727, which was issued by Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). As such, OFSE is subject to PHMSA compliance inspections and reviews. During an inspection conducted in August, 2010, a review of OFSE's test records revealed that the company conducted hydrostatic requalification using test equipment which was not accurate. Therefore, the validity of the test results achieved during these tests cannot be verified.

Recommendations: Any cylinder tested by OFSE after January 1, 2006, and bearing OFSE's RIN C727 in its test markings, is subject to this safety advisory. The owners and users of these cylinders are advised that, the last requalification conducted by OFSE did not meet proper test requirements. Therefore, to ensure safety of the continuing use of these cylinders, they should be removed from service and subjected to proper requalification process.

For further information regarding this advisory, please contact Chris Michalski, Senior Investigator, Eastern Region, Office of Hazardous Materials Safety, Field Operations, U.S. Department of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, 820 Bear Tavern Road, Suite 306, W. Trenton, NJ 08628. Telephone: (609) 989-2256, Fax: (609) 989-2277, Email: chris.michalski@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

Colleen Abbenhaus
Director, Eastern Region

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