PROACTIVE GAS SAFETY LTD



GAS SAFETY FACTSHEET – REGULATOR DATE MARKING

Regulators do not last for ever. As with any other mechanical component they are subject to wear and tear when in use, and need a certain amount of care and maintenance to ensure they remain in a safe and serviceable condition.

Regulator manufacturers usually give their products a set service life – this is most commonly 5 years, although there are many exceptions, especially where regulators are used with gases for specialist applications. Some manufacturers do not set a fixed life for their products, but operate a 'replace on inspection' policy where the regulator is returned to them for inspection and testing at set intervals; if it remains serviceable, it is returned to the user.

However a 5 year or other fixed service life is used by the main manufacturers at the end of which the regulator should be replaced. To indicate the service life of individual regulators manufacturers often mark them with date stamp, date codes or both.



Date Stamp

These are normally a straightforward statement of when the regulator should be replaced or inspected by the manufacturer before being used any longer; they will be stamped or engraved on the regulator body or displayed on adhesive labels fixed to the regulator. They will normally take the form of 'Inspect / Replace 2009' or something similar to this. At the end of the year indicated, the regulator should be replaced or returned to the manufacturer as appropriate.



Date Code

Date codes are more complex, and are used generally to indicate when the regulator was manufactured. From this, the expiry of its service life can be determined. Different makers use different codes, and you will need a date code interpretation sheet supplied by the maker to be able to decode the information provided if it is not used in combination with an explicit date marking as described above. As with date markings, date codes will be stamped or engraved on the regulator body or shown on a label affixed to the regulator.



The first letter (C) indicates the decade of manufacture as follows:					
A = 1970's	B = 1980's	C = 1990's	D = 2000's		
The first number (9) indicates the year of manufacture:					
year 1, 2, etc through to year 9					
The second letter (C) indicates the month of manufacture as follows:					
A = Jan	D = April	G = July	J = Oct		
B = Feb	E = May	H = Aug	K = Nov		
C = Mar	F = June	I = Sept	L = Dec		
A indicates the place of manufacture in code and can be ignored. (You may see an S or D in its place)					

The example above showing a stamp of C9CA was manufactured **March 1999** Move to the next FULL year (2000) then add 5 years (2005) to establish whether the Regulator can be used



<u>Code Table of Lincoln Electric / Harris Calorific Product Marking</u> <u>System - "WZ"</u>

"W	// - Year	r (1st letter)	"Z" -	"Z" - Month (2nd letter)	
Α	1984	2008	Α	January	
В	1985	2009	В	February	
С	1986	2010	С	March	
D	1987	2011	D	April	
E	1988	2012	E	Мау	
F	1989	2013	F	June	
G	1990	2014	G	July	
Н	1991	2015	Н	August	
J	1992	2016	J	September	
К	1993	2017	К	October	
L	1994	2018	L	November	
М	1995	2019	М	December	
Ν	1996	2020			
Р	1997	2021			
Q	1998	2022			
R	1999	2023			
S	2000	2024			
Т	2001	2025			
U	2002	2026			
V	2003	2027			
W	2004	2028			
Х	2005	2029			
Υ	2006	2030			
Z	2007	2031			



Date Code 'WC' (shown) indicates date of manufacture as: 2004, March. Move to the next FULL year (2005) then add 5 years (2010) to establish whether the Regulator can be used



Manufacturers are not obliged to provide any markings or codes in which case purchase records are required to ascertain the age of the regulator.

The regulator date markings and codes shown are some of the more common types; should you encounter others, or you are in any way unsure about the information on the regulators you use, contact the manufacturer.

NOTE:

Because a regulator is given a set service life, it does not automatically mean it can be used throughout that period without proper inspection and maintenance. For regulators used with mobile Oxy/Fuel gas welding sets for example, a formal recorded Annual Inspection is required as a MINIMUM. If at any time within its service life a regulator is damaged or subjected to unauthorised modification or repair, it should immediately be returned to the manufacturer for repair, service exchange or replacement.

IF YOU REQUIRE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT REGULATOR USAGE, CARE AND INSPECTION, PLEASE CONTACT US – WE WILL BE PLEASED TO HELP AND HAVE EXTENSIVE TECHNICAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO US FROM OUR INDUSTRY PARTNERS

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