

5 Year Replacement Recommendation

Pressure Regulators and Flashback Arrestors contain elastomeric components which deteriorate with age and cause the units to fail in service.

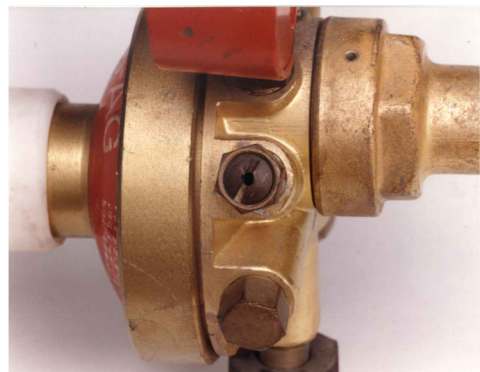
Pressure Regulators used in “low wear” situations such as educational establishments, laboratories and similar applications are particularly prone to failure. Indeed a number of very serious incidents have occurred as the usual result of an elastomeric component failure is a large discharge of gas from the over pressure relief valve.

Modern Relief Valve



These units release dangerous pressure **but** re-seal once the dangerous pressure is released.

“Old” Style Relief Valve



These units discharge the full contents of the cylinder once activated by excess pressure.

The consequences of such releases can be atmospheric enrichment or depletion leading to fires or asphyxiation .They can also lead to a variety of other unsafe conditions.

In response to the need for industry safety, the British Compressed Gases Association recommended in their Code of Practice 7 that Regulators and Flashback Arrestors be replaced or refurbished after 5 years in service or manufacturers recommendation. This is an excellent recommendation and has been widely adopted by industry.

How then does a user recognise the age?

All Saffire regulators and flashback arrestors now have benefit of two permanently marked codes. The manufacturing date, typically D9EA plus an additional Inspection/Replacement code, typically 2015, as shown below. This dual system provides the essential age information required by the user.



This will build up over the years to give a 6 year period which Murex believe appropriate and each year the date stamp will change.

- 2007 – 2013
- 2008 – 2014
- 2009 – 2015
- 2010 – 2016
- 2011 – 2017
- 2012 – 2018

Until 2002 the old system was used and the interpretation is shown below for both product groups.

Pressure regulators / Flashback Arrestors

The codes appear on the back of each regulator, for example, D9EA is typical. The code is translated thus:

DECADE	YEAR	MONTH	FACTORY
A= 1970	0	A = JAN	A = AUTOGEN
B= 1980	1	B = FEB	
C= 1990	2	C = MAR	
D= 2000	3	D = APR	
E= 2010	4	E = MAY	
	5	F = JUN	
	6	G = JUL	
	7	H = AUG	
	8	J = SEPT	
	9	K = OCT	
		L = NOV	
		M = DEC	

Therefore D9EA was manufactured in May 2009 at Autogen.

