



## 5 Year Replacement Recommendation

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

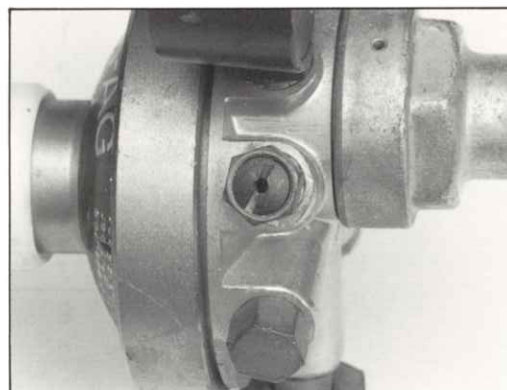
Pressure Regulators used in "low wear" situations such as educational establishments, laboratories and similar applications are particularly prone to failure. Indeed a number of very serious incidents have occurred as the usual result of an elastomeric component failure is a large discharge of gas from 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 or Flashback Arrestors are date coded with a simple code. This is shown below and although effective it can be difficult to read. From 1995 a much more "user friendly" mark has been used.

**B7ES**

"Old Stamp"  
Pre-1995



"New Stamp"

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.

1996	-	2002
1997	-	2003
1998	-	2004
1999	-	2005
2000	-	2006

Until 2002 the old system will need to be used and the interpretation is shown below for both product groups.

### Pressure Regulators

The codes appear on the back of each regulator, for example, B7ES is typical. The code is translated thus:

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

Therefore B7ES was manufactured in May 1987 at Skelmersdale.

### Flashback Arrestors

Murex Flashback Arrestors use the same coding system as regulators today but prior to 1992 they had a different coding system.

This was numeric as below:

YEAR	MONTH	DECADE
0	1 = JAN	7 = 1970
1	2 = FEB	8 = 1980
2	3 = MAR	9 = 1990
3	4 = APR	
4	5 = MAY	
5	6 = JUN	
6	7 = JUL	
7	8 = AUG	
8	9 = SEPT	
9	10 = OCT	
	11 = NOV	
	12 = DEC	

Therefore 758 was manufactured in May 1987.