

Pressure Vessels for Human Occupancy

Note: This includes any spool pieces, medical or equipment locks, trunkings and clamps connected to such vessels

When new

Examination/Test	Category of Competent Person
Manufactured in accordance with a recognised international standard and fit for the purpose it will be used for	3 or 4

When in service

Examination/Test	Validity Period	Category of Competent Person
Visual examination	6 months	1, 2, 3 or 4
Thorough internal and external visual inspection plus a gas leak test at full working pressure	2½ years	1, 2, 3 or 4
Internal overpressure test (or other testing as agreed by an international classification society) plus a gas leak test at full working pressure	5 years	3 or 4

Note:

- ◆ As an alternative to hydraulic or overpressure testing some international classification societies accept engineering investigations (such as FEA) supplemented by specialised NDE. In such a case the resultant certification from the classification society will comply with the five-yearly test requirements above.
- ◆ In the case of diving bells which are to be used in either observation or bounce mode, an external pressure test has to be applied every 5 years.
- ◆ Hydraulic testing is not required for overpressure testing as pneumatic or gas overpressure testing may be substituted. If testing is not hydraulic and the competent person requires it then other testing such as wall thickness measurement or acoustic emission testing may also be required.
- ◆ In all types of overpressure testing suitable safety precautions must be taken to ensure the safety of all testing personnel and others.
- ◆ Some national regulations, certifying authorities or pressure vessel standards may give no option but to apply hydraulic overpressure testing.