

Subject

Inadvertent discharges of Fixed CO<sub>2</sub> fire extinguishing systems – ANSUL CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder valves

# **ClassNK**

## **Technical Information**

No. TEC-0781  
Date 12 August 2009

To whom it may concern

Information has been received about a critical problem involving ANSUL high pressure carbon dioxide fire extinguishing systems. There have been several instances of this particular fire extinguishing system discharging without human intentional or accidental involvement.

The system manufacturer, ANSUL, has identified the suspect CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder valves as those having a date code between 10-07 and 06-08. This date code is located on a flat surface immediately above the threaded section which enters the cylinder and opposite the discharge outlet.

A bulletin from ANSUL giving further details is attached with this Technical Information.

It is strongly recommended that owners and operators who have ANSUL high pressure carbon dioxide fire extinguishing systems onboard their vessels, and others who may own, sell or service these systems, carefully follow the instruction on the attached bulletin.

For any questions about the above, please contact:

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Attachment:

1. Bulletin issued by ANSUL (Bulletin No.5559)

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# Bulletin

## Bulletin No. 5559

DATE: July 16, 2009  
TO: Authorized ANSUL® Marine High Pressure Carbon Dioxide System Distributors  
FROM: Quality Assurance  
SUBJECT: Inadvertent Discharges of Marine High Pressure Carbon Dioxide Systems

### SPECIAL SAFETY ALERT



If you own, sell or service ANSUL® Marine High Pressure CO<sub>2</sub> Systems, please read and follow the instructions in this bulletin.



### WARNING

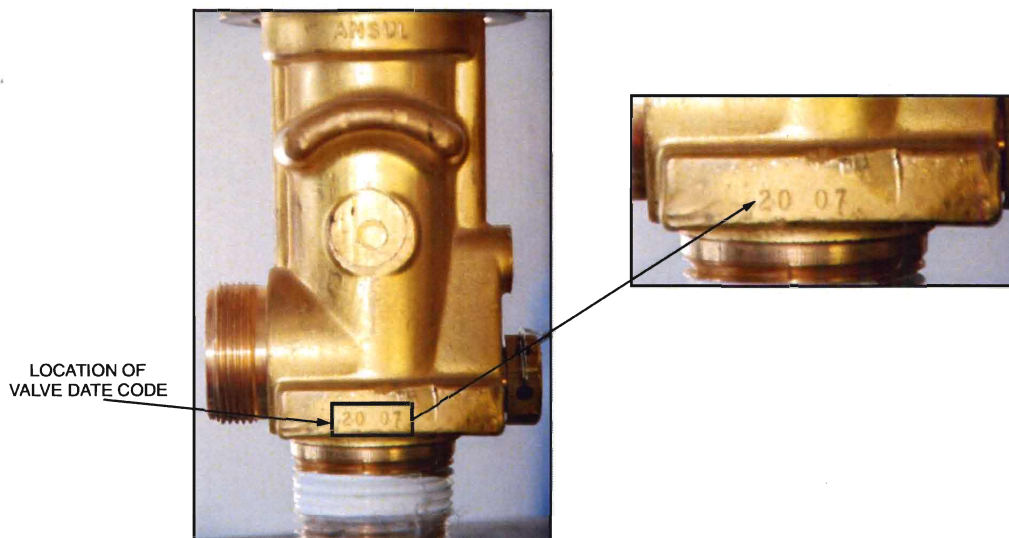
**FAILURE TO READ AND FOLLOW THE INFORMATION IN THIS BULLETIN  
INCREASES THE RISK THAT A HIGH PRESSURE CO<sub>2</sub> SYSTEM MAY  
INADVERTENTLY DISCHARGE ON BOARD A SHIP.**

We have received isolated reports of Marine High Pressure Carbon Dioxide Systems inadvertently discharging. In our review of the reported discharges, we have discovered that in some cases, an internal pressure vent on the cylinder valve may not be adequately venting pressure. Under certain conditions this may cause a cylinder in the system to actuate, which would then cause all cylinders on this specific system to actuate.

We have determined through internal testing that valves with the following date codes, if installed in marine applications, should be replaced:

**Marine High Pressure CO<sub>2</sub> valves with a date code range of 10-07 to 06-08.**

This date code range is conservative and may be further narrowed through additional testing. The date code is located on the flat opposite of the valve outlet. The date code represents the week and year the valve was manufactured.



Carbon dioxide cylinders which are installed, or could be installed on a ship with a valve date code between 10-07 and 06-08 **MUST** be identified. If you identify cylinders with valves in this date code range, please contact ANSUL Quality Assurance **IMMEDIATELY** for further information and authorization for replacement of these cylinders.

**Your immediate attention is requested in order to avoid property damage or personal injury caused by an inadvertent discharge or an inoperative system.**

If you have any questions regarding this bulletin, please contact ANSUL Quality Assurance at 1-800-862-6785 and press 4 for Quality Services or call 715-735-7411 ext. 73383