GENERAL STATEMENT ON FAKE PRODUCTS

EWA is a European professional association which brings together manufacturers of equipment and consumables for flame and electric arc welding (Electrodes, MIG, TIG). Each member of EWA is a producer with a factory in Europe. These European manufacturers comply with European directives and standards that ensure the safety of equipment.

The purpose of this document is to inform you about counterfeits. Counterfeits are products which are copied without permission from the original products and are most often sold at lower prices. The globalization of trade, e-commerce and the development of freight facilitates their marketing. Their uncontrolled quality can be dangerous for the health and safety of users. Their impact on the economy affects intellectual property rights, business markets and employment

The products of European industrial manufacturers are marked. We can therefore identify and find the manufacturer in the event of difficulties or problems which is not generally the case with counterfeit manufacturers leaving you alone to face the difficulties and security risks for users. This marking of the producer (and distributor) identification is important to ensure that the products meet quality and safety standards.

The position paper of EWA ”Importer’s liabilities” recalls the obligations of importers of products which are not manufactured in the EEC:

https://european-welding.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Importers-liabilities-Reviewed-in-March-2016.pdf

FOCUS ON CYLINDER PRESSURE REGULATORS

Regulators are high pressure devices to reduce relatively high pressurized gas in the cylinder (inlet pressure) – up to 300bar – to the desired service pressure (outlet pressure) and to keep it as stable as possible for the respective applications. When a cylinder pressure regulator does not fulfil its function, it may cause a serious safety hazard. This is related to high pressure, property of different gases and to dangerous rise of the secondary pressure in the downstream pipes and components. As a result, not only the low quality of the application is no longer guaranteed, but there is the possibility of safety issue as a fire, explosion, ejection of the parts or asphyxiation. This can lead to financial loses but also to human injuries.

For decades, producers of cylinder pressure regulators based in Europe have been standing for recognized quality. Their products take all safety aspects into consideration. This is guaranteed by long term market experiences and by the well-established quality management system, which of course reflects the current state of both international and local technical regulations. Valid certificates confirm the quality management's efficiency. Maintenance recommendations, operation and service training offers, and spare part specifications are part of the scope of delivery. Regular checks, examination of complaints, in factory tests and test programs follow the life cycle of the products.

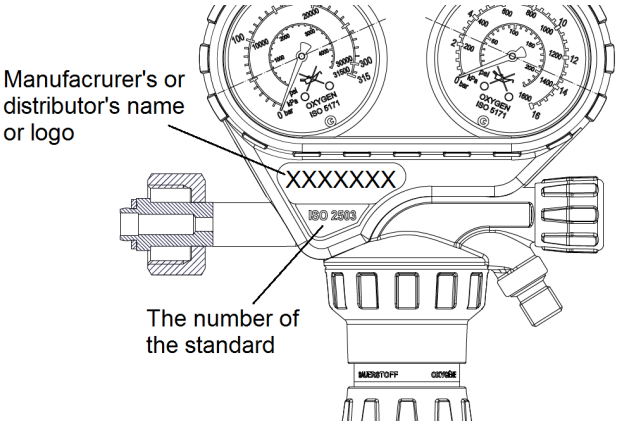
Counterfeit or fraudulent cylinder pressure regulators usually contain labels suggesting that they have been manufactured according to valid safety standards that guarantee their proper operation. But they very often do not meet common safety rules. Users are often not aware, which product markings are required and/or they do not know their significance in detail.

Quality and safe cylinder pressure regulator should be marked according to ISO 2503 as follows:
• Number of this international standard
• Name or trademark of the manufacturer and/or distributor

• Pressure regulator class or accuracy class or nominal outlet pressure and nominal discharge
• Nominal inlet pressure, determined by the manufacturer
• Type of gas used

This information must be clearly visible on the pressure regulator body or cover or on a label permanently fixed to the pressure regulator. In addition, the supplier shall be able to provide the conformity of his product with all safety requirements defined in ISO 2503. This includes the confirmation of a successful type testing conducted by an accredited laboratory.

Example of the correct product marking:
Front view:



Rear view: