



Gastec Storage Guidelines

a1-cbiss (the UK distributor for Gastec) receives many questions surrounding shelf life, expiry dates and storage of gas detector tubes. So we've put together a guide for how you should store and use the tubes correctly.

Shelf Life of Gas Detector Tubes

When Gastec gas detector tubes are manufactured at the factory in Japan, Gastec's research and development team takes a batch sample of detector tubes from the production lines which are then tested to determine the printed measuring scale that will be applied to that detector tube gas type.

Samples of tubes are also tested at intervals throughout the tube's shelf life, to assure that the batch will meet its printed expiry date. The shelf life of a given type of detector tube is often modified based on the results and predictions of this testing.

There is a direct correlation between the shelf life and the relative stability of the chemicals used with the detector tube. The more stable the chemical, the longer the shelf life will be from point of manufacture.

As chemicals age and deteriorate inside the detector tube, the tube function will also deteriorate. At some point, the detector tube will no longer achieve its specified accuracy. Ultimately, the detector tube will reach a point when it will no longer respond to the target gas. The shelf life is calculated to assure that the aging tube is still operating correctly.

a1-cbiss will never dispatch detector tubes with less than 3 months shelf life remaining unless requested by the customer. Please be informed that a1-cbiss work on a stock rotation – first in, first out.

Expiry date of Gastec Detector Tubes

Each packet of Gastec gas detector tubes has a printed expiry date stamped on the top flap of the packet. The expiry date indicates the last month that the detector tubes may be used. The warranty period also concludes upon the expiry date.

Detector tubes will stay accurate for longer if kept refrigerated. However, this does not change the expiry date, which is also the detector tube's warranty date. It is also not possible to quantify the accuracy without testing a sample of the tubes against a known standard gas.

It is not recommended to use detector tubes that are past their expiration date, even if refrigerated, without documented testing to prove that they are still working accurately.

Storage of Gastec Detector Tubes

Refrigerated tubes can be damaged if stored too cold. The specification for storing detector tubes in a refrigerator is 5° to 10°C. Never freeze detector tubes, and always allow refrigerated tubes to adjust to ambient temperature before using them.

Top Tips for Using Gastec Detector Tubes

- Detector tubes are calibrated at 20°C and 50% relative humidity. Accuracy will improve as these conditions are met
- New detector tubes will generally be more accurate than tubes approaching their expiration date
- Refrigerated storage will maintain the manufacturer warranted accuracy. Be sure to warm tubes to ambient temperature prior to use
- Mixing brands of detector tubes and pumps can cause accuracy losses due to the differences in flow rate curve provided by the various pumps. a1-cbiss will never recommend using another gas detector tube brand with either the Gastec tubes or the Gastec sampling pump
- Regular leak checks of the sampling pump will assure that the optimum accuracy is always achieved
- Accuracy improves with longer stain lengths. If several ranges are available, choose the tube that will provide a stain length on the upper half of the tube's range.

Gastec gas detector tubes are of the highest quality utilising colorimetric technology for accurately analysing a wide variety of gases, vapours and ground substances. Short-term Gastec gas detector tubes safely allow users to perform field screening, spot sampling and tests in industrial environments to detect hazardous and toxic gases, and chemical vapours.

a1-cbiss are the approved master distributor for Gastec gas detector tubes in the United Kingdom which means we can offer the lowest priced Gastec tubes.



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