

## Parker Safety Guide for Selecting and Using Hydraulic, Pneumatic Cylinders and Their Accessories

**WARNING: ⚠ FAILURE OR IMPROPER SELECTION OR IMPROPER USE OF CYLINDERS AND THEIR RELATED ACCESSORIES CAN CAUSE DEATH, PERSONAL INJURY AND PROPERTY DAMAGE.**

Before selecting or using Parker cylinders or related accessories, it is important that you read, understand and follow the following safety information.

### User Responsibility

Due to very wide variety of cylinder applications and cylinder operating conditions, Parker does not warrant that any particular cylinder is suitable for any specific application. This safety guide does not analyze all technical parameters that must be considered in selecting a product. The hydraulic and pneumatic cylinders outlined in this catalog are designed to Parker's design guide lines and do not necessarily meet the design guide lines of other agencies such as American Bureau of Shipping, ASME Pressure Vessel Code etc. The user, through its own analysis and testing, is solely responsible for:

- Making the final selection of the cylinders and related accessories.
- Determining if the cylinders are required to meet specific design requirements as required by the Agency(s) or industry standards covering the design of the user's equipment.
- Assuring that the user's requirements are met, OSHA requirements are met, and safety guidelines from the applicable agencies such as but not limited to ANSI are followed and that the use presents no health or safety hazards.
- Providing all appropriate health and safety warnings on the equipment on which the cylinders are used.

### Seals

Part of the process of selecting a cylinder is the selection of seal compounds. Before making this selection read the Operating Fluids and Seals section in this catalog or in the Application Engineering Data section of the current 0106 or 0900P series catalogs, or contact our engineering department.

The application of cylinders may allow fluids such as cutting fluids, wash down fluids etc. to come in contact with the external area of the cylinder. These fluids may attack the piston rod wiper and or the primary seal and must be taken into account when selecting and specifying seal compounds.

Dynamic seals will wear. The rate of wear will depend on many operating factors. Wear can be rapid if a cylinder is mis-aligned or if the cylinder has been improperly serviced. The user must take seal wear into consideration in the application of cylinders.

### Piston Rods

Possible consequences of piston rod failure or separation of the piston rod from the piston include, but are not limited to are:

- Piston rod and or attached load thrown off at high speed.
- High velocity fluid discharge.
- Piston rod extending when pressure is applied in the piston retract mode.

Piston rods or machine members attached to the piston rod may move suddenly and without warning as a consequence of other conditions occurring to the machine such as, but not limited to:

- Unexpected detachment of the machine member from the piston rod.
- Failure of the pressurized fluid delivery system (hoses, fittings, valves, pumps, compressors) which maintain cylinder position.
- Catastrophic cylinder seal failure leading to sudden loss of pressurized fluid.
- Failure of the machine control system.

Following the recommendation of the cylinder stroke chart found in this catalog or in the Cylinder Application Engineering Data section of the current 0106 or 0900P series catalogs. The suggested piston rod diameter in these charts must be followed in order to avoid piston rod buckling.

Piston rods are not normally designed to absorb bending moments or loads which are perpendicular to the axis of piston rod motion. These additional loads can cause the piston rod to fail. If these types of additional loads are expected to be imposed on the piston rod, their magnitude should be made known to our engineering department.

The cylinder user should always make sure that the piston rod is securely attached to the machine member.

On occasion cylinders are ordered with double rods (a piston rod extended from both ends of the cylinder). In some cases a stop is threaded on to one of the piston rods and used as an external stroke adjuster. On occasions spacers are attached to the machine member connected to the piston rod and also used as a stroke adjuster. In both cases the stops will create a pinch point and the user should consider appropriate use of guards. If these external stops are not perpendicular to the mating contact surface, or if debris is trapped between the contact surfaces, a bending moment will be placed on the piston rod, which can lead to piston rod failure. An external stop will also negate the effect of cushioning and will subject the piston rod to impact loading. Those two (2) conditions can cause piston rod failure. Internal stroke adjusters are available with and without cushions. The use of external stroke adjusters should be reviewed with our engineering department.

The piston rod to piston and the stud to piston rod threaded connections are secured with an anaerobic adhesive. The strength of the adhesive decreases with increasing temperature. Cylinder which can be exposed to temperatures above +250°F (+121°C) are to be ordered with a non studded piston rod and a pinned piston to rod joint.

### Cushions

Cushions should be considered for cylinder applications when the piston velocity is expected to be over 4 inches/second.

Cylinder cushions are normally designed to absorb the energy of a linear applied load. A rotating mass has considerably more energy than the same mass moving in a linear mode. Cushioning for a rotating mass application should be review by our engineering department.

### Cylinder Mountings

Some cylinder mounting configurations may have certain limitations such as but not limited to minimum stroke for side or foot mounting cylinders or pressure de-ratings for certain flange mounts. Carefully review the catalog for these types of restrictions.

Always mount cylinders using the largest possible high tensile alloy steel socket head cap screws that can fit in the cylinder mounting holes and torque them to the manufacturer's recommendations for their size.

### Port Fittings

Hydraulic cylinders applied with meter out or deceleration circuits are subject to intensified pressure at piston rod end.

The rod end pressure is approximately equal to:

$$\frac{\text{operating pressure} \times \text{effective cap end area}}{\text{effective rod end piston area}}$$

Contact your connector supplier for the pressure rating of individual connectors.

### Cylinder Modifications or Repairs

Cylinders as shipped from the factory are not to be disassembled and or modified. If cylinders require modifications, these modifications must be done at Parker locations or by Parker certified facilities. It is allowed to disassemble cylinders for the purpose of replacing seals or seal assemblies. However, this work must be done by strictly following all the instructions provided with the seal kits.

**For additional information – call your local Parker Cylinder Distributor.**