

Thank You for purchasing Dictator Gas Springs.

Please take a few moments to read the following recommendations, which will help to ensure a long and trouble free life for your gas springs.

INSTALLATION

- ◆ Wherever possible install gas springs in a clean environment away from sources of contamination, dust and dirt.
- ◆ Gas springs should be installed piston rod downwards. Except pull type gas springs, which should be installed piston rod upwards.
- ◆ Where this is not possible please consult Dictator for advice.
- ◆ Select mounting brackets and end fittings to ensure that the gas springs are not subjected to any lateral forces.
- ◆ Site mounting positions to ensure that the gas springs cannot be fully compressed or 'crushed'.
- ◆ If necessary, fit a mechanical stop to ensure that the gas springs cannot be over-extended or 'stretched'.



CARE AND MAINTENANCE

- ◆ Dictator gas springs are sealed for life and require no lubrication
- ◆ Never grip the piston rod with pliers or other similar tools - damage caused to the piston rod will result in the premature failure of the gas spring.
- ◆ To achieve a long life gas springs should be operated no more than 6 times per minute and as a minimum once a month.
- ◆ Dictator gas springs with standard oils and seals will operate between -20 and +80 degrees. Avoid extreme heat or fire.

Sudden impacts and unseen forces can damage gas springs. This must always be avoided. Always follow safe disposal instructions.

RELEASE VALVES FOR FORCE ADJUSTMENT

Where a release valve is fitted, the force that the gas spring generates can be reduced. This is particularly useful for prototype and developmental work.

- ◆ Ensure that sufficient time is allowed to carry out the adjustment, as it may be necessary to try the gas spring a number of times on the application before the optimum force is achieved.
- ◆ The valve is concealed within the threaded end of the cylinder.
- ◆ It will be necessary to remove any end fitting fitted to the cylinder before access can be gained to that valve. (Gas springs with integral eyelets will have a small clearance hole through the eyelet allowing access to the valve.)
- ◆ The co-axial valve comprises of a hardened steel ball held against a machined seat by gas pressure within the cylinder. The valve is blanked off by a socket cap screw and 'o' ring seal.
- ◆ Always wear safety goggles.
- ◆ Ensure that the cylinder is uppermost, and the piston rod is pointing downwards.
- ◆ Using a 2mm hexagon key remove the socket cap screw by turning in an anti-clockwise direction. Remove the 'o' ring.
- ◆ Gently insert a 2mm parallel pin punch into the hole revealed by the socket cap screw. The punch will now be resting on the top surface of the ball.
- ◆ Using a 200gm hammer, lightly tap the punch. Each time the punch is tapped, a small amount of gas is released from the cylinder. The more gas that is released the greater the reduction in force.

Ensure you have set enough time aside to carefully make the adjustment

Take care not to strike the punch too hard - if the valve is damaged, all gas will be lost from the cylinder.

