

BLEED/RELIEF VALVE TEST

LIFT CHECK/SETTING THE BLEED/RELIEF VALVE

Tools required:

Adjustable first stage scuba regulator or controlled adjustable pressure source

Intermediate test gauge

1/2" open-end wrench

1/8" Allen wrench

HP air source at least 500 psig (34.4 bar).

Mild dish detergent

The purpose of lift checking the bleed/relief valve is to ensure it operates properly, allowing excess pressure to escape in the event the first stage develops a slight leak. Without the bleed/relief valve, high-pressure gas will continue to increase until the emergency supply hose ruptures, possibly causing injury and a complete loss of the Emergency Gas System (EGS). This procedure explains the steps necessary for readjusting the bleed/relief valve after it is cleaned, overhauled or any time the valve is tested.

CAUTION

Ensure the bleed/relief valve is only installed in a low-pressure port of the first stage regulator.

DANGER

Do not use oxygen, or mixed gas containing more than 23% oxygen by volume, for lift checking the bleed/relief valve. The use of oxygen, or mixed gas, in a high-pressure supply system not designed and cleaned for oxygen service, can result in a fire or explosion causing serious injury or death.

NOTICE

The bleed/relief valve is lift checked and/or adjusted using an adjustable first stage regulator, equipped with a low-pressure test gauge, which is used for adjusting the intermediate pressure of scuba regulators. The check/adjustment can be performed using a standard scuba test stand, or a gas control console, using air or mixed gas with an oxygen content below 23% by volume. If a first stage scuba regulator is used, it must be able to be adjusted to the desired lifting pressure. The pressure gauge should be compared to a gauge of known accuracy.

1. Install the bleed/relief valve in a low-pressure port on an adjustable first stage regulator, or install on a scuba test stand that has an adjustable pressure supply, then tighten with the 1/2" open-end wrench.
2. Install an intermediate pressure gauge in one of the low-pressure ports of the first stage regulator.

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3. Install the first stage regulator on the cylinder. Ensure the bleed/relief valve and intermediate pressure gauge are attached to low-pressure ports facing up.
4. Wet the bleed/relief valve with soapy water to help indicate when gas flow starts.
5. Slightly crack open the gas supply so a very slight flow of gas is traveling to the first stage, until the intermediate pressure gauge travels no further. Leave the supply valve only slightly cracked open. Most first stage regulators use an intermediate setting between 130 - 150 psig (9.3 – 10.3 bar).
6. Slowly, increase the intermediate setting of the first stage until the pressure gauge indicates 180 psig (12.4 bar). If the bleed/relief valve starts venting before a pressure of 180 psig (12.4 bar) is reached (as indicated by small bubbles forming or by “popping”), turn the adjustment screw in (clockwise) using the 1/8” Allen wrench on the bleed valve hex nut 1/16th -1/8th turn, or until all leakage stops as indicated with the soapy water. If a pressure above 200 psig (13.8 bar) is reached without the bleed/relief valve forming bubbles or popping, slowly back out (counterclockwise) on the adjustment hex nut 1/16th of a turn at a time until bubbles form.

NOTICE

If the Allen screw on the bleed/relief valve hex nut is rotated too far, too fast, the bleed/relief valve will pop open. This could possibly require the air to be secured at the cylinder to reset the seat before the adjustment can be accomplished.

7. Continue this procedure as necessary until the bleed/relief valve consistently starts to forms bubbles at a pressure between 180 and 200 psig (12.4 -13.8 bar). After the valve has been set to just bubble or pop off, back out on the regulator adjustment nut until the pressure is set back to 135 psig (9.3 bar), or at the factory setting of the first stage regulator.
8. Re-wet the bleed/relief valve, and then slowly increase the intermediate pressure on the first stage regulator to recheck the lift pressure once more. The bleed/relief valve should start forming bubbles between 180 - 200 psig (12.4 -13.8 bar). After final adjustment; reset the first stage regulator to 135 psig (9.3 bar), or to the manufacturer’s recommended pressure setting. Spray the bleed/relief valve with soapy water and ensure there are no leaks.
9. After a successful leak check, the bleed/relief valve may be reinstalled into the system.

NOTICE

The bleed/relief valve can now be installed in any first stage regulator, providing the first stage has an intermediate setting of 135 - 165 psig (9.3 – 11.4 bar).

TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem

Valve pops open and will not stop flowing.

Check

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If while setting the bleed/relief valve the valve pops open and will not stop flowing, secure the air supply valve and allow the valve to reseal. Try the procedure again, ensuring that the supply valve is only **slightly** cracked open, allowing full test pressure but minimizing high flow potential.

Problem

After resetting the first stage to 135 psig (9.3 bar), the valve continues to leak.

Check

This indicates the valve body seating surface or the soft seat is either dirty or damaged. Usually, cleaning both the metal body seating surface in the valve body and the soft seat will fix the problem. If, after cleaning, the problem persists, replace the soft seat and spring and retest the unit. If, after this has been accomplished, the seat continues to leak, then replacement of the complete valve will be necessary.