

	Technical Note	04/12/2007
	Custodian & Gasman II batteries Document Reference: GEN-006	

Product: Custodian & Gasman II

Subject: Custodian Rechargeable Battery Packs and Gasman II Batteries

We are in the situation where the rechargeable Nickel Metal Hydride batteries used in the Custodian and in Gasman II rechargeable battery pack have been made obsolete by the manufacturer, without prior notice or the opportunity for a last time buy. We have put considerable effort into searching the market place to find a replacement and have tested more than 10 alternatives but unfortunately we have been unable to find any AA sized NiMH batteries suitable for certification to the required standards for use in Custodian or Gasman II. (Manufacturers have generally increased the capacity of cells but this creates energy issues for the intrinsically safe circuits in the affected products.)

We have no remaining stock of batteries available for either Custodian or for Gasman II. We are therefore as of now unable to support the rechargeable battery versions of these products. The non rechargeable versions continue to be supported, and the non rechargeable battery pack can be used with existing rechargeable Custodians to keep them in service albeit with the inconvenience of the consumable batteries.

As many customers may be uncomfortable in relying on a product that is no longer fully supported we recommend contacting Custodian and Gasman II customers to explain the situation. Some will want to upgrade to our current Gasman Tetra and Tetra3 products and we suggest encouraging this via an appropriate trade in arrangement.