

**BY ORDER OF THE COMMANDER
TINKER AIR FORCE BASE**

**TINKER AIR FORCE BASE INSTRUCTION
48-103**



2 SEPTEMBER 2015

Aerospace Medicine

RESPIRATORY PROTECTION PROGRAM

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

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Certified by: 72 MDG/CC
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This instruction supplements the Air Force Instruction (AFI) 48-137, *Respiratory Protection Program*, at Tinker Air Force Base (AFB). This instruction is required to be maintained and read annually by all organizations in which personnel wear respirators for protection against inhalation of harmful atmospheres or for emergency escape or rescue and by organizations who use filtering face pieces. Ensure that all records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication are maintained in accordance with (IAW) Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 33-363, *Management of Records*, and disposed of IAW the Air Force Records Disposition Schedule (RDS) located at <https://www.my.af.mil/afirms/afirms/afirms/rims.cfm>. Refer recommended changes and questions about this publication to the Office of Primary Responsibility (OPR) using AF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*;

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

This document has been substantially revised and must be completely reviewed. Significant changes include the requirement for respirator users to supply respiratory protection when reporting to the BEF Respirator Room for annual fit testing and rescinding Tinker Air Force Base Visual Aid (TINKERAFBVA) 48-103, *Respirator Use in the Workplace*.

1. Policies:

- 1.1. Respirators will be used IAW AFI 48-137, paragraphs 1.2., 3.1.3., and 3.1.4.
- 1.2. The type of respirator to be used will be specified by the 72 AMDS/SGPB, Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight (BEF), using selection criteria referenced in National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Occupational Safety and Health

Administration (OSHA), and AFI guidance. Only respirators provided by Tinker AFB and specified by BEF will be used. The use of privately procured respirators is prohibited.

1.3. The non-routine use of respirators will be utilized in only those situations that have been previously identified and evaluated by BEF. Any guidelines or limitations set forth by BEF will be strictly adhered to.

1.4. At no time will compressed shop air be used as a breathing air source. All breathing air sources must be approved and inspected by BEF prior to initial use. All breathing air couplings must be incompatible with outlets for non-respirable worksite air or other gas systems.

1.5. Tinker AFB organizations authorized to maintain respiratory protection equipment for emergency or rescue use are the Fire Department, BEF, Emergency Management and those organizations who are performing support operations under the direction of the Fire Department. The inspection of this equipment will be conducted and documented IAW AFI 48-137.

2. Responsibilities:

2.1. Workplace supervisors will:

2.1.1. Contact BEF as needed for information and guidance regarding respiratory protection matters. In case of an emergency after duty hours, a BEF representative may be reached through the Command Post.

2.1.2. Upon initial assignment to a workplace that requires the use of respiratory protection, contact BEF to obtain training as required by AFI 48-137. This training must be annotated on the supervisor's AF Form 55, *Employee Safety and Health Record*, or electronic equivalent. Subsequent supervisor training will be conducted annually during the BEF annual evaluation of the workplace respiratory protection program.

2.1.3. With assistance from BEF, develop, maintain, and enforce a workplace-specific written respiratory protection plan (WWRPP) IAW AFI 48-137. This WWRPP must be reviewed and approved by BEF annually.

2.1.4. Ensure personnel (to include assigned, new, on-loan, and personnel on TDY status to Tinker AFB) understand how to use the respiratory protection equipment and any associated equipment such as breathing air sources prior to the assignment of the tasks.

2.1.5. Ensure personnel on the respiratory protection program are medically qualified by the Occupational Medicine Flight (OMF) (72 AMDS/SGPO) prior to initially wearing a respirator. The OSHA standard (29 CFR 1910.134(e) and Appendix C) specifies the minimum requirements for medical evaluations.

2.1.6. Ensure respirator users (to include assigned, new, on-loan, and personnel on TDY status to Tinker AFB) are given initial and periodic (annual, and as changes occur) training by BEF prior to using the respirator as required by AFI 48-137. Training will be conducted by BEF in the Respirator Room, Building 3334, Room 227. Document training on AF Form 55 or electronic equivalent.

2.1.7. Ensure personnel wearing tight-fitting respirators are fitted by BEF prior to initial use and are refitted by BEF every 12 months thereafter, or more frequently if required by

a specific OSHA standard or AFI. Employees must be medically qualified by OMF prior to fit testing. Fit testing is conducted, on a walk-in basis, in the BEF Respirator Room, Bldg 3334, during the duty hours of 0730-1100 and 1200-1530, Monday through Thursday. Employees must be clean-shaven in order to be fit-tested. The date of the fit test will be annotated on the AF Form 55 or electronic equivalent.

- 2.1.7.1. Initial Fit Test: BEF keeps a bench stock of different types of respiratory protection for initial fit tests.
- 2.1.7.2. Annual Fit Test: When reporting to the BEF Respirator Room for an annual fit test, respirator users must supply the respirator that will be used for the fit test. The respirator must be the same model and size as specified on their previous fit test report, must be clean and in good working condition.
- 2.1.8. Ensure personnel who wear tight-fitting respirators are clean shaven while wearing the respirator and when reporting to BEF for fit-testing.
- 2.1.9. Ensure the issuance, care, cleaning, and maintenance of respirators is conducted according to the procedures described in the WWRPP.
- 2.1.10. Ensure personnel who are tasked with issuing, cleaning, or maintenance of respirators are given initial and annual training by BEF and the training completion date is documented on the AF Form 55 or electronic equivalent.
- 2.1.11. Provide initial and annual training to personnel who use filtering face piece devices; document training completion date on the AF Form 55 or electronic equivalent. Training consists of the devices' limitations and the potential hazards of improper use. Contact BEF for assistance in conducting this training.
- 2.1.12. Immediately report any problems and/or concerns involving respiratory protection to BEF.
- 2.1.13. Immediately require respirator users to report to OMF if experiencing medical difficulties or concerns due to respirator usage or the user's ability to wear a respirator.
- 2.1.14. Ensure emergency-use respirators are inspected weekly and prior to use and the results of these inspections are documented on AF Form 1071, *Inspection/Maintenance Record*. The AF Form 1071 must be kept either with the respirator, attached to the storage compartment for the respirator or included in inspection reports.
- 2.1.15. Direct respirator users to the Optometry Clinic (72 AMDS/SGPE) if corrective lenses are needed while wearing a tight-fitting respirator. Provide the user with the necessary respirator-specific system or kit for mounting the corrective lenses and ensure that personnel do not wear any other non-approved eyeglasses.
- 2.1.16. Ensure all breathing air sources are approved by BEF prior to procurement. Consult with BEF prior to procuring compressed breathing air bottles or cylinders from off-base sources.
- 2.1.17. Ensure compressed breathing air sources are tested by the 76th Maintenance Support Squadron, Analytical Chemistry Section (76 MXSS/MXDTAA) every 90 days or immediately after repairs, maintenance or modifications are made to the breathing air system. Immediately report all potential or actual contamination of breathing air to BEF.

Immediately cease use of a breathing air system if notified by BEF or MXDTAA that the system does not meet breathing air quality standards.

2.1.18. Ensure breathing air compressors and ambient air pumps are on a preventive maintenance schedule. For ambient air pumps located in Oklahoma Air Logistics Complex (OC-ALC), contact the Equipment Maintenance Section (76 MXSS/MXDVAB). For all other ambient air pumps and breathing air compressors, contact the Civil Engineering Contract Operations (72 ABW/CECO).

2.1.19. Ensure sensors and alarms associated with breathing air compressors are on a calibration schedule through the Precision Measurements Equipment Laboratory (PMEL) Flight (76 MXSS/MXDCA).

2.1.20. Ensure airline couplings and fittings used with airline respirators are incompatible with outlets for compressed shop air or other gas systems to prevent the possibility of a non-respirable gas entering the airline respirator.

2.1.21. Ensure lines and outlets supplying breathing air are labeled as "Breathing Air" and the labels are clearly visible to personnel; any outlets supplying non-respirable gases, such as compressed shop air, nitrogen, argon, etc., must also be clearly labeled as to the content.

2.1.22. Ensure NIOSH certification of respirators is maintained (e.g., no etching of identifying numbers on any part of the respirator, mixing manufacturer replacement parts or using cartridges not approved by the manufacturer).

2.2. Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight (BEF), 72 AMDS/SGPB will:

2.2.1. Include work area specific respiratory protection information in the Industrial Hygiene assessment letter, or its attachments.

2.2.2. Review and approve, on an annual basis, organizational respiratory protection procedures, practices, and written plans; recommend corrective actions when deficiencies are noted.

2.2.3. Provide initial and annual training as required by AFI 48-137 to all respirator users and the first-level supervisors who oversee the users' duties.

2.2.4. Conduct or arrange for initial and annual training of personnel tasked with issuance, care, maintenance or cleaning of respiratory equipment.

2.3. Analytical Chemistry Section (76 MXSS/MXDTAA) will test the compressed breathing air sources as required by TO 42B-1-22, *Quality Control of Compressed and Liquid Breathing Air*, and any other applicable guidelines. Copies of all test results will be forwarded to the work area and to BEF. Immediate notification will be made to BEF and the affected work area if samples do not meet breathing air quality standards.

2.4. PMEL Flight (76 MXSS/MXDCA) will calibrate all sensors and alarms associated with breathing air compressors. Calibrations and tests will follow any applicable technical orders, MAJCOM and AFMETCAL guidance. PMEL will immediately notify the affected work area and BEF of any malfunctioning systems or alarms.

2.5. Equipment Maintenance Section (76 MXSS/MXDVAB) and Civil Engineering Contract Operations (72 ABW/CECO) will:

2.5.1. Repair and maintain respiratory protection breathing air systems as requested by using organizations and will ensure all repairs and maintenance are performed IAW the manufacturer's guidelines. Ensure non-respirable gases are not introduced into breathing air systems during repairs and maintenance.

2.5.2. Ensure any fittings placed on breathing air connections, such as hoses and regulator panels, are incompatible with the couplings or fittings of connections for non-respirable gases.

2.5.3. Immediately report any breathing air equipment malfunctions to the affected work area and BEF.

2.6. Occupational Medicine Flight (72 AMDS/SGPO) will ensure that personnel who wear respiratory protection are medically qualified and that all medical evaluations are conducted IAW 29 CFR 1910.134 and any other applicable guidance.

3. Program Documentation.

3.1. The Certificate of Fit Test provided by BEF will record the employees' respirator fit-test results and will document the authorized respirator.

3.2. AF Form 1071, *Inspection/Maintenance Record*, or electronic equivalent will be used to document required inspection of respiratory equipment.

STEPHANIE P. WILSON, Colonel, USAF
Commander

Attachment 1**GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION*****References***

Air Force Instruction (AFI) 21-113, *Air Force Metrology and Calibration (AFMETCAL) Program*, 23 March 2011

AFI 48-137, *Respiratory Protection Program*, 15 July 2014

Title 29 CFR 1910.134, *Respiratory Protection*, 8 June 2011

Technical Order (TO) 42B-1-22, *Quality Control of Compressed and Liquid Breathing Air*, 22 August 2012

Prescribed Forms

None

Adopted Forms

AF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*;

AF Form 1071, *Inspection/Maintenance Record*

Abbreviations and Acronyms

72AMDS/SGPB—72d Aerospace Medicine Squadron Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight

72AMDS/SGPO—72d Aerospace Medicine Squadron Occupational Medicine Flight

72ABW/CECO—72d Air Base Wing Civil Engineering Contract Operations

76MXSS/MXDTAA—76th Maintenance Support Group Analytical Chemistry Section

76MXSS/MXDCA—76th Maintenance Support Squadron Precision Measurements Equipment Laboratory

76MXSS/MXDVAB—76th Maintenance Support Group Equipment Maintenance Section

AFMC—Air Force Materiel Command

AFI—Air Force Instruction

BEF—Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight

CFR—Code of Federal Regulations

CO—Carbon Monoxide

IAW—In Accordance With

NIOSH—National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

OMF—Occupational Medicine Flight

OSHA—Occupational Safety and Health Administration

PMEL—Precision Measurements Equipment Laboratory

PPE—Personal Protective Equipment

RPP—Respiratory Protection Program

TAFBI—Tinker Air Force Base Instruction

TO—Technical Order

WWRPP—Workplace-specific Written Respiratory Protection Plan

Terms

Breathing air source/system—Bottled breathing air, high-pressure breathing air compressor or low-pressure breathing air pump (ambient air pump).

Clean shaven—The removal of all facial hair in the “face-to-seal” area of the tight-fitting respirator and/or any hair that interferes with the respirator valve function.

Individual use—A respirator issued to an employee who will be the sole user.

Respirator issuer—An employee, trained by BEF or a designated alternate, that is responsible for the issuance of respiratory protection.

Respirator maintainer—An employee, trained by BEF or a designated alternate, that is responsible for the cleaning, maintenance, and repair of respirators.

Tight-fitting respirator—Any respirator that is designed to form a complete seal or air-tight seal between the respirator and the face.