

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

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



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Aerospace Medicine**

**RESPIRATORY  
PROTECTION PROGRAM**

**COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY**

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OPR: 72 OMRS/SGPB

Certified by: 72 MDG/CC  
(Colonel Jennifer L. Trinkle)

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This instruction implements the Air Force Instruction (AFI) 48-137, *Respiratory Protection Program*. This instruction is required to be maintained and read annually by all organizations in which personnel wear respirators for protection against inhalation of potentially 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). Refer recommended changes and questions about this publication to the Office of Primary Responsibility (OPR).

**SUMMARY OF CHANGES**

This document has been substantially revised and must be completely reviewed. Significant changes include removing redundancies between AFI 48-137 and this instruction, addressing designation of a Unit Respiratory Protection Program administrator, and assessment and documentation of Respiratory Protection Program (RPP) program effectiveness.

**1. Policies:**

1.1. Respirators will be used IAW AFI 48-137.

1.2. The type of respirator to be used will be specified by 72 OMRS/SGPB, Bioenvironmental Engineering (BE), 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 BE will be used. The use of privately procured respirators is prohibited.

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

1.4. Lines and outlets supplying breathing air must be labeled as "Breathing Air" and the labels must be 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. Responsibilities:** Reference AFI 48-137, Chapter 2, for additional responsibilities.

2.1. Workplace supervisors (Unit Respiratory Protection Program Administrators) will:

2.1.1. Serve as the Unit Respiratory Protection Program Manager as designated by the BE Flight Commander. Completion of Supervisor Respiratory Protection training given to the Supervisor by BE will certify the Supervisor to administer the Unit Respiratory Protection Program. Training and certification will be documented on an AF IMT 1151.

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

2.1.3. With assistance from BE, develop, maintain, and enforce written workplace specific procedures / workplace-specific written respiratory protection plan (WWRPP).

2.1.4. Upon initial assignment to a workplace that requires the use of respiratory protection, contact BE 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 by BE.

2.1.5. Ensure personnel on the respiratory protection program are medically qualified by the OMF (72 OMRS/SGPO) prior to initially wearing a respirator.

2.1.6. Ensure personnel wearing tight-fitting respirators are fitted by BE prior to initial use and are refitted by BE 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 BE 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.

**Figure 1. Fit Test.**

**Initial Fit Test** – BE keeps a bench stock of different types of respiratory protection for initial fit tests.

**Annual Fit Test** – When reporting to the BE 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.

- 2.1.7. Ensure the issuance, care, cleaning, and maintenance of respirators is conducted according to the procedures described in the WWRPP.
- 2.1.8. Ensure personnel who are tasked with issuing, cleaning, or maintenance of respirators receive initial and annual training by BE and the training completion date is documented on the AF Form 55 or electronic equivalent.
- 2.1.9. Filtering face-piece devices (FFPDs) are not designed to reduce worker exposure to harmful chemicals or particulates, but may be voluntarily worn for ‘comfort purposes’ after evaluation and approval by BE. Supervisors must provide initial and annual training to personnel who use filtering face piece devices and document training completion date on the AF Form 55 or electronic equivalent. Contact BE for assistance in conducting this training.
- 2.1.10. Immediately report any problems and/or concerns involving respiratory protection to BE.
- 2.1.11. 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.
- 2.1.12. 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.
- 2.1.13. Direct respirator users to the Optometry Clinic (72 OMRS/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.
- 2.1.14. Ensure all breathing air sources and equipment are approved by BE prior to procurement.
- 2.1.15. Ensure compressed breathing air sources are tested by the 76th Maintenance Support Squadron, Analytical Chemistry Section (76 MXSS/MXDTAA) or equivalent every 90 days or immediately after repairs, maintenance or modifications are made to the breathing air system. Testing of air conducted by any entity other than 76 MXSS/MXDTAA must be approved by BE. Immediately report all potential or actual contamination of breathing air to BE. Immediately cease use of a breathing air system if notified by BE, MXDTAA, or other testing organization that the system does not meet breathing air quality standards.

2.1.16. Ensure breathing air compressors and ambient air pumps are on a preventive maintenance schedule. For ambient air pumps located in Oklahoma City Air Logistics Complex (OC-ALC), contact Plant Maintenance Production (776 MXSS/MXDVA). For all other ambient air pumps and breathing air compressors, contact the Civil Engineering Contract Operations (72 ABW/CECO).

2.1.17. Ensure sensors and alarms associated with breathing air compressors are on a calibration schedule through the Metrology and Calibration Flight (76 MXSS/MXDCA). All sensors and alarms must be calibrated IAW manufacturer's recommendations.

2.1.18. 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.

2.1.19. 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).

2.1.20. IAW 29 CFR 1910.134(k)(1) and AFI 48-137 para. 3.1.8.2., assess the effectiveness of the workplace specific RPP training and document demonstration of respirator user knowledge of RPP requirements annually (every 12 months) at a minimum. Documentation will include the number of employees assessed, any discrepancies found at the time of the evaluation, and corrective measures taken.

2.1.21. IAW 29 CFR 1910.134(l) and AFI 48-1-37 para. 3.1.9., conduct evaluations of the workplace to ensure that the written RPP is being effectively implemented, to assess the employees' views on the effectiveness of the program, and to identify any problems.

## 2.2. BE, 72 OMRS/SGPB will:

2.2.1. Include work area specific respiratory protection information in the Routine Industrial Hygiene assessment letter.

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 first-level supervisors who oversee the duties of respirator wearers. Completion of this training will certify the Supervisor to administer the Unit Respiratory Protection Program.

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/MXDCAA) 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 BE. Immediate notification will be made to BE and the affected work area if samples do not meet breathing air quality standards.

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

2.5. Plant Maintenance Production (776 MXSS/MXDVA) 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 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 BE.

2.6. Occupational Medicine Flight (72 OMRS/SGPO) medically qualifies personnel who wear respiratory protection and ensures medical evaluations are conducted IAW 29 CFR 1910.134 and any other applicable guidance.

PAUL G. FILCEK, Colonel, USAF  
Commander

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

AFI 21-113, *Air Force Metrology and Calibration (AFMETCAL) Program*, 3 June 2016

AFI 48-137, *Respiratory Protection Program*, 12 September 2018

AFMAN 33-363, *Management of Records*, 1 March 2008

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

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

***Prescribed Forms***

None

***Adopted Forms***

AF Form 1071, *Inspection/Maintenance Record*

AF Form 847, *Recommendation for change of Publication*

***Abbreviations and Acronyms***

**AFMAN**—Air Force Manual

**AFMC**—Air Force Materiel Command

**AFI**—Air Force Instruction

**BE**—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

**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 BE or a designated alternate, that is responsible for the issuance of respiratory protection.

**Respirator maintainer**—An employee, trained by BE 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.