

**LA ANG WRITTEN RESPIRATORY PROTECTION PROGRAM**

**COMPLIANCE WITH THIS INSTRUCTION IS MANDATORY**

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This instruction implements Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1910.134, *Respiratory Protection*, and AFOSH Standard 48-137, *Respiratory Protection Program*, at all installations of the Louisiana Air National Guard (LA ANG). This instruction, AFOSH Standard 48-137 and the workplace specific Operating Instruction (OI) are required to be maintained by all work centers in which personnel wear respirators for protection against inhalation of harmful atmospheres or for emergency escape or rescue.

**1. Responsibilities.**

**1.1. Unit Commanders will:**

1.1.1. Establish and conduct a respiratory protection program conforming to the requirements of this standard and applicable Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards when respiratory protection is used within their organization.

1.1.2. Provide personnel using or supervising others who use respiratory protection devices training as outlined in this standard.

1.2. Workplace supervisors, where respiratory protection is used, have a direct responsibility for protecting their workers. **The workplace supervisor will:**

1.2.1. Maintain this standard, and maintain and enforce the workplace OI developed by Bioenvironmental Engineering Services (BES). The supervisor will call BES at (504) 391-8516 or DSN 457-8516 as needed for information and guidance regarding respiratory protection matters.

1.2.2. Contact BES whenever workplace operations change to schedule appropriate evaluations when new chemicals are introduced, processes or procedures are changed, or engineering controls are modified or added.

1.2.3. Document initial and annual training on AF Form 55, **Employee Safety and Health Record** or electronic equivalent.

1.2.4. Provide for quality control of respirator breathing air (if required) according to Technical Order 42B-1-22, *Quality Control of Compressed and Liquid Breathing Air*.

1.2.5. Appoint an individual to be responsible for the use, maintenance, inspection, and care of common use, emergency or escape respirators, as appropriate.

1.2.6. Ensure personnel on the respiratory protection program wear the correct respiratory protection for which they have been fit-tested and trained prior to utilization.

1.2.7. Advise ***all*** respirator wearers that they may leave the area at any time for relief from respirator use in the event of equipment malfunction, physical or psychological distress, procedural or communication failure, significant deterioration of operating conditions, or any other conditions that might require such relief.

1.2.8. Ensure annual training and documentation is conducted for all assigned personnel who elect to wear filtering face piece devices (dust/mist masks). Supervisors ***MUST*** ensure that personnel who elect to wear them clearly understand that they are for "Comfort Purposed" ***ONLY*** and that they clearly understand the uses and limitations of the devices. Only National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)/Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) certified devices are recommended.

### 1.3. **Individuals who wear respiratory protection will:**

1.3.1. Use ***ONLY*** the provided respiratory protection according to the instructions and training received.

1.3.2. Guard against its damage.

1.3.3. Report to their supervisor any change in medical status that might affect their ability to safely wear respiratory protection.

1.3.4. Inspect, clean and maintain any respiratory protection device issued to them for their individual use.

1.3.5. Wear ***ONLY*** that respiratory protection for which they have received fit-testing and training, and only for the tasks specified.

1.3.6. Maintain the respiratory protection's integrity of the NIOSH/MSHA certification by not mixing parts from different manufacturers.

### 1.4. **Bioenvironmental Engineering Services:**

1.4.1. Is the office of primary responsibility for the Louisiana Air National Guard's respiratory protection program.

1.4.2. Is the sole authority for determining if respiratory protection is required.

1.4.3. Will administer or appoint another individual to administer the Louisiana Air National Guard's respiratory protection program. This program "*administrator*" will:

1.4.3.1. Be qualified through one of the means stated below:

1.4.3.1.1. Graduate of USAFSAM Course B3AZY4BOX1-015, *Advanced Respiratory and Personal Protective Equipment*.

1.4.3.1.2. Graduate of USAFSAM Course B3OBY9121-000, *Bioenvironmental Engineering*.

1.4.3.2. Develop and maintain a state directive.

1.4.3.3. Maintain current copies of Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1910, *Occupational Safety and Health Standards*, Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations Part 1926, *Safety and Health Regulations for Construction*, and the NIOSH Certified Equipment List.

1.4.3.4. Identify all requirements outlined in applicable OSHA standards.

1.4.3.5. Be the state level authority on selection, use, fit-testing, limitations, and maintenance of respirators used for protection against inhalation of harmful atmospheres.

1.4.3.6. Give guidance to shop supervisors as necessary, in the preparation of the shop respiratory protection program OI and annual training program.

1.4.3.7. Educate and train workplace supervisors, workers, and those individuals appointed to oversee the use, maintenance, and care of common use or emergency escape respirators during the initial and annual respirator fit-testing protocol.

1.4.3.8. Ensure fit-testing is conducted according to provisions in AFOSH Standard 48-137.

1.4.3.9. Conduct a respiratory protection program review according to provisions outlined in AFOSH Standard 48-137.

1.4.3.10. Ensure BES is on the NIOSH respirator user's notice mailing list.

1.4.3.11. Prepare a master respiratory protection program inventory for the state.

1.4.3.12. Resolve inconsistencies between technical orders and AFOSH Standard 48-137 using official channels (AFTO Form 22, **Technical Order Improvement Report and Reply**).

1.4.3.13. Coordinate completion of established medical evaluation questionnaires by respirator users.

1.5. **Public Health will ensure:**

1.5.1. All respirator users have been correctly coded to receive baseline and annual medical evaluations as required.

1.5.2. That BES is notified of any suspected problems on respirator usage discovered during their inspections.

**1.6. Chief of Aerospace Space Medicine will:**

1.6.1. Ensure a physician or other licensed health care professional makes the determination that a worker is physically able to wear a respirator.

**1.7. Ground Safety and Environmental Offices will:**

1.7.1. Refer any suspected problems on respirator usage discovered during their inspections to BES.

**2. Selection, Use and Limitations.**

2.1. Respirator selection and use will be determined by BES upon initial evaluation of the work center (baseline survey) or during the initial evaluation of a new chemical or new process (special survey) that has been introduced into the work center.

2.2. Respirator limitations will be discussed with shop supervisor and assigned personnel after baseline/special surveys have been completed and each year during annual respiratory protection program training.

**3. Training.**

3.1. All initial and annual respiratory protection program training will be conducted by BES prior to respirator fit-testing. Supervisors should contact BES at extension 391-8516 or 391-8540 to schedule initial training on newly assigned personnel.

3.2. Supervisors will ensure annual training is conducted for all assigned personnel who elect to wear filtering face piece devices (dust/mist masks). Supervisors ***MUST*** ensure that personnel who elect to wear them clearly understand that they are for "Comfort Purposed" ***ONLY*** and clearly understand the uses and limitations. Only NIOSH/MSHA certified devices are recommended for use. To assist in training, a lesson plan developed by BES may be found on Y:\Medical\Bio\Resptory.

3.3. A copy of the sign-in roster will be forwarded to the work center supervisor as verification that training was conducted. AF Form 55 documentation will be completed by work center supervisor or appointed unit training manager.

3.4. In addition to the sign-in roster, an AF Form 2772, **Certificate of Respirator Fit Test**, will be forwarded by BES to the individual's work center. This form should be attached to the individual's AF Form 55.

#### 4. **Fit-Testing.**

4.1. BES personnel will perform all qualitative fit-testing. Work center supervisors will be contacted annually by BES to schedule fit-testing personnel on the respiratory protection program.

4.2. Supervisors should contact BES at extension 391-8516 or 391-8540 to schedule initial fit-testing on newly assigned personnel.

#### 5. **Care, Inspection and maintenance of Respirators.**

5.1. Care, inspection and maintenance of respirators, assigned or common use, will be conducted in accordance with AFOSH Standard 48-137, Attachment 12, page 52.

**NOTE:** Steps A12.1.3.1. thru A12.1.3.3. may be disregarded if using a commercial respirator disinfectant (i.e. Clean Gear, etc.).

#### 6. **Medical Surveillance.**

6.1. Medical surveillance will be conducted in accordance with AFOSH Standard 48-137, paragraph 5.

#### 7. **Administrative Procedures.**

7.1. Work center supervisors should not purchase respiratory protection without first consulting with BES (initial or replacement respirators).

#### 8. **Procedures for Program Evaluation.**

8.1. Supervisors should review their respiratory protection program on a semiannual basis to ensure all required information is available and all training is current.

8.2. BES will review each work center respiratory protection program during the work centers routine Bioenvironmental Engineering survey.

9. **Referenced Publications.** AFOSH Standard 48-137, *Respiratory Protection Program*, 29 CFR 1910.134, *Respiratory Protection*, 29 CFR 1910, *Occupational Safety and Health Standards*, 29 CFR 1926, *Safety and Health Regulations for Construction* and Technical Order 42B-1-22, *Quality Control of Compressed and Liquid Breathing Air*.

10. **Forms Prescribed.** AF Form 55, **Employee Safety and Health Record**, AF Form 2772, **Certificate of Respirator Fit Test**, and AFTO Form 22, **Technical Order Improvement Report and Reply**.

BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR

BENNETT C. LANRENEAU  
Major General, LAARNG  
The Adjutant General

OFFICIAL

Signed

JOHN G. ROBINSON, LT COL, LA ANG  
Executive Support Staff Officer