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Aerospace Medicine

RESPIRATORY PROTECTION PROGRAM

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This instruction implements AFD 48-1, Aerospace Medical Program, and provides information specific to the implementation of Air Force Occupational Safety and Health (AFOSH) Standard 48-137, Respiratory Protection Program, at Misawa Air Base, Japan. It applies to all military and civilian personnel assigned or attached to the 35th Fighter Wing.

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS

The major change in this instruction is the new standard AFOSH Standard 48-137. A bar (|) indicates revisions from the previous edition.

1. Definitions.

1.1. Refer to AFOSH Standard 48-137, Respiratory Protection Program, Attachment 1, Section C, for a list of definitions of terms used in connection with this program.

2. Responsibilities.

2.1. Responsibilities are described in AFOSH Standard 48-137, Respiratory Protection Program. Additional local responsibilities regarding the implementation of this base respiratory protection program are addressed below.

2.2. Supervisors will call the Bioenvironmental Engineering (BE) Flight (35 AMDS/SGPB) as needed for information and guidance regarding respiratory protection matters. In case of emergency after duty hours, a BE representative may be reached through the hospital emergency room.

2.3. Supervisors will provide the respirator medical evaluation questionnaires whenever a new person is assigned to their unit. The completed questionnaires will be dropped off by each individual to their specific Primary Care Manager (PCM) to schedule a medical evaluation. BE will schedule an initial

fit test and training after receiving the medical clearance from the PCMs. Japanese questionnaires are also available.

3. Selection, Use, and Limitations.

3.1. SGPB will make all decisions regarding the selection, use, and limitations of respirators on Misawa Air Base, in accordance with Chapter 4 of AFOSH Standard 48-137. These decisions will be based on the potential hazards present in the workplace.

3.2. Workplace supervisors will call the BE whenever they have a question about the need for a respirator or the proper type of respirator for a particular operation.

3.3. Government employees in Air Force workplaces shall use only government-authorized respirators. Respirators are approved and authorized by BE prior to use, they are not issued but obtained as suggested in paragraph 8.1.

4. Training.

4.1. BE will conduct respiratory protection training for Misawa Air Base personnel as follows:

4.2. Supervisors will receive initial training as described in paragraph 7.1. of AFOSH Standard 48-137 whenever they have a permanent change of station or become the supervisor of a different workplace. The supervisor's supervisor will document this training on AF Form 55, Employee Safety and Health Record. SGPB will document this training on an AF Form 2767, Occupational Health Training and Protective Equipment Fit Testing.

4.3. Annual Training: Annual training and fit testing will be conducted for all personnel on the respiratory protection program. Both procedures will be conducted at the same time. When BE receives the individual's annual medical clearance for respirator fit testing stating they are still medically qualified to wear a respirator, they will conduct training and fit testing.

4.4. The individual's shop will document this annual training on the individual's AF Form 55, Employee Safety and Health Record. BE will document this training on an AF Form 2767, Occupational Health Training & Protective Equipment Fit Testing.

4.5. Emergency Response and Rescue Teams: Each organization on base that uses a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) for responding to emergency situations is responsible for training its teams on how to use and maintain this respirator.

5. Fit Testing.

5.1. BE conducts all respirator fit testing, both initial and annual. Fit testing is done on an appointment and scheduled basis after receiving the medical clearance from the PCMs.

5.2. BE will issue an AF Form 2772, Certificate of Respirator Fit Test, to individuals receiving initial fit testing. This form is to be filed with their AF Form 55. SGPB also keeps a copy of this form in the individual's shop casefile, Tab F. Individuals receiving annual fit testing will be documented on an AF Form 2767. In both cases, SGPB will document satisfactory fit testing on the individual's medical evaluation questionnaire and this form will be filed in the individual's medical records. Each PCM is responsible for filing the evaluation questionnaires in the medical records.

6. Care, Inspection and Maintenance of Respirators.

6.1. All workplaces involved in the Respiratory Protection Program must follow the guidelines stated in Chapter 8 of AFOSH Standard 48-137. Shops are required to conduct breathing air sampling as determined by T.O. 42B-1-22, Quality Control of Compressed and Liquid Breathing Air, and Attachment 13 of AFOSH Standard 48-137. A copy of the results must be sent to 35 AMDS/SGPB.

7. Medical Evaluation.

7.1. The information contained in Chapter 5, Medical Evaluation of AFOSH Standard 48-137, applies to respirator users on Misawa Air Base. Personnel can call the BE at 226-6107/6108 with any questions concerning this subject.

8. Administrative Procedures.

8.1. Respirators can currently be ordered in two ways on Misawa Air Base: Respirators assigned national stock numbers (NSN) can be ordered through normal supply channels. Respirators not assigned NSN are ordered using local purchase procedures.

8.2. Respirators are assigned Standardized List of Issue Exception Codes to allow BE to control and track use and issue of respirators.

9. Procedures for Program Evaluation.

9.1. BE will conduct an annual evaluation of its Respiratory Protection Program in accordance with the elements described in paragraph 9.5. of AFOSH Standard 48-137 and report the findings in writing to the Aerospace Medicine Council and the Environmental, Safety, and Occupational Health Working Group .

9.2. During routine industrial hygiene surveys, BE will review or check for the following:

- 9.2.1. The shop's respiratory protection OI.
- 9.2.2. The condition of respirators on hand.
- 9.2.3. The storage location of respirators in the shop.
- 9.2.4. To see that the shop has a copy of AFOSH Standard 48-137.
- 9.2.5. A copy of this base instruction.
- 9.2.6. To see if respirators are still required, based upon current work practices.

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