

**24 February 1999**

**Aerospace Medicine**

**RESPIRATORY PROTECTION PROGRAM**



**COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY**

---

**NOTICE:** This publication is available digitally on the HQ AFRC WWW site at: <http://www.afrc.af.mil> and the AFRCEPL (CD-ROM) published monthly.

---

OPR: 440 SPTG/PB (Marlene Zellmer)  
Supersedes 440 AWI 48-101, 31 August 1997

Certified by: 440 SPTG/CC (David Rundquist)  
Pages: 3  
Distribution: F

---

This instruction implements and extends the guidance of AFRPD 48-1, *Aerospace Medical Program*, 29 CFR 1910.134, *Respiratory Protection*, and AFOSH Standard 48-137. It establishes guidelines to comply with OSHA requirements. This instruction applies to all personnel who wear respirators for protection against inhalation or harmful atmospheres or for emergency escape or rescue at General Mitchell IAP ARS WI.

**SUMMARY OF REVISION**

AFOSH Std 48-1 has been changed to AFOSH Std 48-137, acronym for BEE/MPH changed to SPTG/PB, para 4.1. added, and para 5.1. 45 changed to 90.

**1. Responsibilities.** These responsibilities are directed for all base-level personnel stationed at GMIAP-ARS, WI. Additional responsibilities are listed in AFOSH Standard 48-137, *Respiratory Protection Program*.

1.1. Bioenvironmental Engineering (SPTG/PB) is the office of primary responsibility for the base respiratory protection program. SPTG/PB is the only base authority for determining if respiratory protection is required. SPTG/PB will administer the base respiratory protection program and will be responsible for all requirements as stated in AFOSH Standard 48-137.

1.2. Unit commanders will ensure personnel using or supervising others who use respiratory protection devices are provided training as outlined in this instruction.

1.3. Where respiratory devices are used, workplace supervisors shall:

1.3.1. Call SPTG/PB as needed for information and guidance regarding respiratory protection matters. In addition, workplace supervisors must maintain this instruction, a copy of AFOSH Standard 48-137, and a workplace operating instruction which must be approved by BEE/MPH.

1.3.2. Ensure all other requirements stated in paragraph 2.5.2. through 2.5.2.9. of AFOSH Standard 48-137 are met.

1.4. Base Supply will:

1.4.1. Ensure that SPTG/PB has approved respiratory protection requests before issuing respirators or respirator parts.

1.4.2. Ensure a suitable substitute for a particular respirator or respirator part is not issued.

1.5. The Fire Department chief will provide training on the use and maintenance of self-contained breathing apparatuses (SCBA). The chief will ensure that required maintenance for regulating or admission valves, regulators, and alarms for SCBA's is performed by the respirator manufacturer or appointed individual(s) trained and certified by the manufacturer to conduct such maintenance.

**2. Selection, Use, and Limitations.** SPTG/PB will make all determinations of tasks requiring the use of respirators, depending on task requirement or exposure potential.

**3. Training:**

3.1. SPTG/PB will provide training to workplace supervisors and shop workers where respiratory protection is used. This training will be done on an annual basis during annual/baseline industrial hygiene surveys. Documentation of training will be annotated on AF Form 55, Employee Safety and Health Record, and on AF Form 2767, Occupational Health Training and Protective Equipment Fit-testing Record.

3.1.1. Training will include, as a minimum, all aspects of AFOSH Standard 48-137, Chapter 7.

**4. Fit-testing:**

4.1. Annual fit-testing and training will be scheduled and accomplished by SPTG/PB. Fit-testing will be accomplished using qualitative or quantitative procedures IAW applicable Federal Standards.

4.2. Workplace supervisors will contact SPTG/PB at least two weeks prior to scheduling initial fit-testing for new employees. For reservists, supervisors must contact SPTG/PB at least one UTA prior to scheduling fit-test.

**5. Care, Inspection, and Maintenance of Respirators.** All respirators used on GMIAP-ARS will be cared for IAW all manufacturer's instructions. These instructions must be incorporated into workplace respiratory protection operating instructions. These procedures will be inspected annually by SPTG/PB.

5.1. Breathing air sampling is required every 90 days. The GMIAP-ARS Fire Department, Structural Maintenance, Aerospace Ground Equipment, and Fuel Distribution Systems shops must provide for quality control of respirator breathing air according to Technical Order 42B-122 (Quality Control of Compressed and Liquid Breathing Air), and furnish a copy of sampling results to SPTG/PB no later than two weeks after the results are received.

**6. Medical Surveillance:**

6.1. The Aeromedical Council (ACM) will establish a medical evaluation protocol for respirator users. This protocol will include initial, annual, and termination examinations deemed necessary.

6.2. SPTG/PB will ensure all respirator users have been correctly coded to receive any baseline and annual medical evaluations.

6.3. The full-time technician assigned to the Physical Examinations Section of Aeromedical Services or Occupational Medicine Services will arrange for and conduct initial (for reservists) and routine medical surveillance of respirator users required by AFOSH Standard 48-137, and applicable OSHA standards. The Chief, Aeromedical Services will ensure a physician makes the determination that a worker is physically able to wear a respirator.

6.4. The Civilian Personnel Office (DPC) will review their copy of AF Form 2766, Clinical Occupational Health Examination Requirements (shop specific), for any respiratory protection program requirements prior to sending potential employees for baseline occupational physical examinations. DPC will contact SPTG/PB for baseline exam requirements for newly-established positions after the date of the current AF Form 2766.

## **7. Administrative Procedures:**

7.1. Any purchase of respiratory protection equipment in parts via the local purchase route must be pre-approved by SPTG/PB. All respiratory protection items will be coded with an Issue Exception Code (IEX) of "Y". This indicates approval by SPTG/PB must be obtained before ordering/issuing.

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

8.1. The SPTG/PB respiratory protection program administrator will conduct a program evaluation on an annual basis. This evaluation will include all items stated in paragraphs 9.5 through 9.5.6.2.4. of AFOSH Standard 48-137.

8.2. The program administrator will report findings of the evaluation to the Aeromedical Council and the Combined Occupational Safety and Health Council on an annual basis.

PAUL R. COOPER, Brig Gen, USAFR  
Commander