

## RESPIRATORS

R8.33-1 [Respirators - Interchanging Air Cylinders](#)

R8.33-2 [Respirators - Interchanging Air Lines](#)

R8.33-1  
Respirators - Interchanging Air Cylinders

### BACKGROUND

#### 1. Explanatory Notes

Section 8.33 outlines the general requirements for the selection of respiratory protective equipment.

#### 2. The OHSR

Section 8.33:

(1) The employer, in consultation with the worker and the occupational health and safety committee, if any, or the worker health and safety representative, if any, must select an appropriate respirator in accordance with *CSA Standard CAN/CSA-Z94.4-93, Selection, Use and Care of Respirators*.

(2) Only a respirator which meets the requirements of a standard acceptable to the Board may be used for protection against airborne contaminants in the workplace.

### POLICY

Compressed air cylinders may be interchanged with different makes of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) provided the cylinders are fully compatible with the SCBA on which they will be used. The cylinders must have the same pressure rating and fittings with the same type of thread and thread length.

When interchanging is being done, the user should be aware that using cylinders originally made for one make of SCBA on another make will void the NIOSH approval for that SCBA. This may affect the user's ability to successfully recover damages from the SCBA manufacturer in the event of an equipment problem or malfunction.

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EFFECTIVE DATE:	August 1, 2001
AUTHORITY:	Section 8.33 of the <i>OHSR</i> .
CROSS REFERENCES:	
HISTORY:	April 6, 2020 - Housekeeping changes. February 1, 2011 - Housekeeping changes to reflect regulation changes effective on that date. September 15, 2010 - Housekeeping changes to delete practice reference and make formatting changes. March 1, 2005 - Housekeeping changes to reflect the October 29, 2003 changes to the <i>OHSR</i> . This Item originally replaced Policy No. 14.23(2)-1 of the former Prevention Division <i>Policy and Procedure Manual</i> . October 29, 2003 - The reproduction of section 8.33(1) of the <i>OHSR</i> in this Item was revised to reflect its amendment. This Item results from the 2000/2001 "editorial" consolidation of all prevention policies into the <i>Prevention Manual</i> . The POLICY in this Item merely continues the substantive requirements of Policy No. 14.23(2)-1, as they existed prior to the Effective Date, with any wording changes necessary to reflect legislative and regulatory changes since Policy No. 14.23(2)-1 was issued.
APPLICATION:	This policy applies to interchanging compressed air cylinders on self-contained breathing apparatus on and after August 1, 2001.

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R8.33-2  
Respirators - Interchanging Air Lines

### BACKGROUND

#### 1. Explanatory Notes

Section 8.33 outlines the general requirements for the selection of respiratory protective equipment.

#### 2. The OHSR

Section 8.33:

(1) The employer, in consultation with the worker and the occupational health and safety committee, if any, or the worker health and safety representative, if any, must select an appropriate respirator in accordance with *CSA Standard CAN/CSA-Z94.4-93, Selection, Use and Care of Respirators*.

(2) Only a respirator which meets the requirements of a standard acceptable to the Board may be used for protection against airborne contaminants in the workplace.

## POLICY

Air lines on respirators can generally be interchanged provided they:

- are NIOSH approved;
- are of the same inside diameter and length as recommended by the manufacturer; and
- have compatible end fittings.

When interchanging is being done, the user should be aware that using air lines originally made for one make of respirator on another make will void the NIOSH approval for that respirator. This may affect the user's ability to successfully recover damages from the respirator manufacturer in the event of an equipment problem or malfunction.

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EFFECTIVE DATE:	August 1, 2001
AUTHORITY:	Section 8.33 of the <i>OHSR</i> .
CROSS REFERENCES:	
HISTORY:	April 6, 2020 - Housekeeping changes. February 1, 2011 - Housekeeping changes to reflect regulation changes effective on that date. September 15, 2010 - Housekeeping changes to delete practice reference and make formatting changes. March 1, 2005 - Housekeeping changes to reflect the October 29, 2003 changes to the <i>OHSR</i> . This Item originally replaced Policy No. 14.23(2)-2 of the former Prevention Division <i>Policy and Procedure Manual</i> . October 29, 2003 - The reproduction of section 8.33(1) of the <i>OHSR</i> in this Item was revised to reflect its amendment. This Item results from the 2000/2001 "editorial" consolidation of all prevention policies into the <i>Prevention Manual</i> . The POLICY in this Item merely continues the substantive requirements of Policy No. 14.23(2)-2, as they existed prior to the Effective Date, with any wording changes necessary to reflect legislative and regulatory changes since Policy No. 14.23(2)-2 was issued. A caution has been added regarding the voiding of NIOSH approval in certain situations.
APPLICATION:	This policy applies to interchanging air lines on respirators on and after August 1, 2001.

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