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Respiratory protective devices - Recommendations for selection, use, care and maintenance - Guidance document

Atemschutzgeräte - Empfehlungen für Auswahl, Einsatz, Pflege und Instandhaltung - Leitfaden

Appareils de protection respiratoire - Recommandations pour le choix, l'utilisation, l'entretien et la maintenance - Guide

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**Respiratory protective devices - Recommendations for selection,
use, care and maintenance - Guidance document**

Appareils de protection respiratoire - Recommandations
pour le choix, l'utilisation, l'entretien et la maintenance -
Guide

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Pflege und Instandhaltung - Leitfaden

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 22 July 2005.

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Contents

	Page
Foreword	5
Introduction	6
1 Scope	7
2 Normative references	7
3 Terms and definitions	7
4 Classification	9
4.1 General classification	9
4.2 Main components	9
4.2.1 General	9
4.2.2 Facepieces	9
4.2.3 Filters	9
4.2.4 Breathable air or gas supply source for breathing apparatus	9
5 Programme process	10
5.1 Employers and self-employed persons responsibilities	10
5.1.1 Programme policy	10
5.1.2 Provision of respiratory protective devices	10
5.1.3 Organisation	10
5.1.4 Resources	10
5.1.5 Management review	10
5.1.6 Training	10
5.1.7 Supervision	10
5.2 Employees responsibilities	11
5.2.1 Wearers	11
5.2.2 Competent persons	11
5.3 Manufacturers' responsibilities	11
6 Risk assessment process	11
7 Criteria for using respiratory protective devices	12
8 Risk assessment for respiratory protective device use	12
8.1 Elements of respiratory protective device programme	12
8.2 Factors to consider in risk assessment	13
9 Adequacy and suitability	13
9.1 General	13
9.2 Adequacy	13
9.2.1 General	13
9.2.2 Assessing atmospheres immediately dangerous to life or health	13
9.2.3 Assessing the minimum required protection factor	14
9.3 Suitability	14
9.3.1 General	14
9.3.2 Assessing suitability for the workplace environment	14
9.3.3 Assessing suitability for the task	15
9.3.4 Assessing suitability for the wearer	15
9.3.5 CE-Marking	15
10 Use	16
11 Operating information, instruction and training	16
11.1 General	16
11.2 Employers	16
11.3 Wearers	16

11.4	Supervisors	17
12	Maintenance	17
13	Storage.....	17
13.1	Employers duties	17
13.2	Employees' duties.....	17
14	Record keeping	17
Annex A	(informative) Types and components of respiratory protective devices	19
A.1	Facepieces.....	19
A.1.1	Half mask without inhalation valves and with separable filters to protect against gases or gases and particles and particles only (EN 1827).....	19
A.1.2	Half masks and quarter masks (EN 140)	19
A.1.3	Full face Masks (EN 136)	19
A.2	Filters	20
A.2.1	General.....	20
A.2.2	Particle filters (EN 143, EN 12941 and EN 12942)	20
A.2.3	Gas filters and combined filters (EN 14387, EN 12941 and EN 12942).....	20
A.2.4	Service life of filters	21
A.3	Filtering devices	22
A.3.1	General.....	22
A.3.2	Negative pressure devices	22
A.3.3	Assisted filtering devices	23
A.4	Breathing apparatus	24
A.4.1	Fresh air hose breathing apparatus.....	24
A.4.2	Compressed air line breathing apparatus (EN 14593-1, EN 14593-2, EN 14594, EN 1835 and EN 12419).....	25
A.4.3	Self-contained breathing apparatus	26
A.4.4	Ventilated protective suits (EN 943-1 and EN 1073-1)	27
A.4.5	Compressed air for breathing apparatus (EN 12021)	27
	Escape devices	30
Annex B	(informative) Atmospheres immediately dangerous to life or health	32
B.1	General.....	32
B.2	Conditions	32
B.3	Situations likely to present atmospheres immediately dangerous to life or health.....	32
B.3.1	Confined spaces	32
B.3.2	Oxygen deficiency.....	32
B.3.3	Emergency situations created by hazardous substances	33
Annex C	(informative) Protection factors	34
C.1	General.....	34
C.2	Using protection factors	34
Annex D	(informative) Suitability factors	37
D.1	General.....	37
D.2	Environmental factors	37
D.2.1	Oxygen deficiency.....	37
D.2.2	Oxygen enrichment.....	37
D.2.3	Asphyxiants.....	37
D.2.4	Contaminant levels immediately dangerous to life or health	38
D.2.5	Potentially corrosive atmospheres.....	38
D.2.6	Potentially explosive atmospheres.....	38
D.2.7	Potentially permeating contaminants.....	39
D.2.8	Particulate contaminants (aerosols).....	39
D.2.9	Gas and vapour contaminants	39
D.2.10	Climatic extremes.....	40
D.3	Task/job factors impacting on the wearer.....	40
D.3.1	Work rate	40
D.3.2	Visibility	41
D.3.3	Mobility	41
D.3.4	Communication	41

EN 529:2005 (E)

D.3.5	Thermal stress.....	42
D.3.6	Duration of wear.....	42
D.3.7	Tools used	42
D.4	Wearer factors	43
D.4.1	Medical fitness	43
D.4.2	Facial characteristics	43
D.4.3	Spectacles	44
D.4.4	Contact lenses.....	44
D.4.5	Non PPE accessories.....	44
D.4.6	Interaction with other PPE.....	44
D.5	Legal factors.....	45
D.5.1	European Product Directives	45
D.5.2	European Standards	45
Annex E	(informative) Assessing the fit of tight fitting facepiece.....	46
E.1	General.....	46
E.2	Fit checking	46
E.2.1	General.....	46
E.2.2	Negative pressure fit check.....	46
E.2.3	Positive pressure fit check.....	46
E.3	Fit test methods	46
E.3.1	Qualitative fit testing.....	46
E.3.2	Quantitative fit testing	47
Annex F	(informative) Respiratory protection passport	48
Bibliography	49

Foreword

This European Standard (EN 529:2005) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 79 "Respiratory protective devices", the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by March 2006, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by March 2006.

This European Standard supersedes CR 529:1993.

Users of this European Standard, prepared in the field of application of Article 118A of the EC Treaty, should be aware that European Standards have no formal legal relationship with Directives which may have been made under Article 118A of the Treaty. In addition, national legislation in the Member States may contain more stringent requirements than the minimum requirements of a Directive based on Article 118A. Information on the relationship between the national legislation implementing Directives based on Article 118A and this European Standard may be given in a national foreword of the national standard implementing this European Standard.

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

Introduction

Hazardous substances such as dusts, fibres, fumes, vapours, gases, micro-organisms and radioactive particulates and gases encountered at work can cause significant damage to health or, in extreme cases, can lead to death. This frequently occurs by the inhalation of harmful levels of hazardous substances that are present in the workplace air. Besides the inhalation exposure dermal exposure to hazardous substances can also lead to local skin damage, and sensitisation, as well as systemic effects.

Similarly exposure to an oxygen deficient atmosphere can lead to death.

Exposure (via all routes - inhalation, dermal and ingestion) to hazardous substances at work should be eliminated or alternative substances which are less hazardous used. Where elimination is not practicable adequate protective measures should be put in place so that exposures are reduced to a minimum.

The use of suitable protective measures at source should be the first choice for minimising the exposure. Such measures protect everyone in the workplace, whereas a respiratory protective device only protects the person who wears it. If adequate protective measures at source or any other administrative measures are not reasonably practicable or found to be inadequate for controlling inhalation exposure then an adequate and suitable respiratory protective device should be used.

Respiratory protective devices are designed to be worn in hazardous environments and should provide wearers with an adequate supply of breathable air or gas. Respiratory protective devices are considered to be at the bottom of the hierarchy of protective measures and should only be used after an acceptable case for their use has been established by way of an appropriate risk assessment.

Fatalities and serious accidents can occur if there is a failure to select and use a respiratory protective device suited to the substances, the wearer, the task and the environment in which the device is used. The failure to maintain the device in good working condition can also lead to similar consequences. These problems should be avoided by implementing a suitably designed respiratory protective device programme.

1 Scope

This European Standard provides guidance on the best practice for establishing and implementing a suitable respiratory protective device programme. It is published to provide a Europe-wide baseline for the selection, use, care and maintenance of respiratory protective devices. It provides guidelines for preparing national guidance in this area. The guidance contained in this European Standard is not intended to be exhaustive, but highlights important aspects to which attention should be given. The recommendations in this European Standard will help to comply with national legislation on this subject where it exists, or with European legislation.

Respiratory protective devices used exclusively in diving and at increased or reduced atmospheric pressures are not covered by this guidance.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this European Standard. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

EN 132:1998, *Respiratory protective devices – Definitions of terms and pictograms*

EN 134:1998, *Respiratory protective devices – Nomenclature of components*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this European Standard, the terms and definitions given in EN 132:1998 and EN 134:1998 and the following apply.

3.1

atmosphere immediately dangerous to life or health

atmosphere in which the concentrations of hazardous substances, including asphyxiants, or the oxygen levels present create one or more of the following conditions:

- immediate threat to life;
- could cause delayed threat to life;
- would cause immediate acute health effects;
- would prevent the respiratory protective device wearer from an unaided escape to safety in case of the device malfunctioning or failing to operate correctly

3.2

assigned protection factor (APF)

level of respiratory protection that can realistically be expected to be achieved in the workplace by 95 % of adequately trained and supervised wearers using a properly functioning and correctly fitted respiratory protective device and is based on the 5th percentile of the Workplace Protection Factor (WPF) data

3.3

breathing zone

space outside the facepiece extending 0,3 m in radius in front of the respiratory protective device wearer's face and centred on the mid-point of a line joining the ears

EN 529:2005 (E)

3.4

competent person

person with suitable and sufficient experience and with practical and theoretical knowledge of the elements of respiratory protective device programme for which that person is responsible

3.5

emergency breathing facility

facility, as specified by the respiratory protective device manufacturer, coming into operation when the normally operating respiratory protective device is not functioning. The facility provides an adequate level of protection for a period to enable the device wearer to exit the work area, unassisted, to a place of safety

3.6

nominal protection factor

number derived from the maximum percentage of total inward leakage permitted in relevant European Standards for a given class of respiratory protective device. The relationship between nominal protection factor and total inward leakage can be expressed as follows:

$$\text{nominal protection factor} = \frac{100}{\text{permitted maximum percentage total inward leakage}}$$

3.7

maximum allowed occupational exposure limit

limit of the time weighted average concentration of hazardous substances in the air within the breathing zone of a worker in relationship to a specified reference period

3.8

specified reference period

specified time for the purposes of time-weighting the exposure concentration as stated for the occupational exposure limit value of hazardous substances. The specified reference period for the long-term limit value is normally 8 h and for the short-term limit value is normally 15 min

3.9

peak inhalation rate

maximum instantaneous volume flow rate which occurs during an inhalation cycle of a respiratory protective device wearer

3.10

respiratory protective device passport

document for recording the details of initial and refresher training provided to a respiratory protective device wearer

3.11

workplace protection factor

ratio between the breathing zone (see 3.3) concentration (outside the facepiece) of a chosen hazardous substance and its concentration inside the facepiece (suitable sampler being placed as near as possible to the mouth of respiratory protective device wearer) of a correctly functioning respiratory protective device when correctly worn and used in the work place. The workplace protection factor may be expressed as:

$$\text{workplace protection factor} = \frac{\text{concentration within the breathing zone (outside the facepiece)}}{\text{concentration inside the facepiece}}$$

3.12

work rate

physiological load (strain) imposed on an individual respiratory protective device wearer due to his work rate can be defined in terms of the maximal oxygen uptake rate in l/min. The rate of oxygen uptake due to work rate can be categorised into light, moderate, heavy and very heavy metabolic rates (watts)

NOTE Metabolic rate may be calculated using the international standard method (see EN ISO 8996).

4 Classification

4.1 General classification

There are two distinct types of respiratory protective devices:

- a) Filtering devices: These purify the ambient air to be breathed using filters able to remove contaminants in the air.
- b) Breathing apparatus: These supply the wearer with breathable air (e.g. compressed air), or breathable gas, (e.g. compressed oxygen) from an uncontaminated source.

Details of different types of devices are given in Annex A.

4.2 Main components

4.2.1 General

A respiratory protective device consists of two main components, a facepiece and filter(s) or a facepiece and a means of supplying uncontaminated breathable air or gas.

4.2.2 Facepieces

The facepiece directs the uncontaminated breathable air or gas to the wearer's nose and mouth area. Filtering devices and breathing apparatus are available with a range of different facepieces but there are some important limitations.

- Tight-fitting facepieces (filtering facepieces, quarter masks, half masks and full face masks) rely heavily on a good seal between the mask and the wearer's face. Full face masks, half masks and quarter masks may be used for both types of devices as described in 4.1.
- Loose-fitting facepieces (e.g. hoods, helmets, visors, blouses, suits) rely on enough air being provided to prevent contaminants leaking into the facepiece as the wearer breathes and moves about. They are only used on powered filtering devices or with suitable breathing apparatus. In other words, loose-fitting facepieces are not suitable for devices which rely on the breathing action of the wearer to draw air. These include unpowered filtering devices and some breathing apparatus.
- Mouthpieces are used with certain devices. They make any form of verbal communication impossible. They are used in conjunction with a nose clip.

4.2.3 Filters

Filtering devices should have the correct type of filter(s) matched to the substance(s) from which the wearer needs protection. The filters can only protect against limited concentration ranges of contaminants as specified by the manufacturers. The filter can be for protection against particles (particle filters), gases/vapours (gas filters) and for protection against particles and gases/vapours (combined filters). Further details are given in A.2.

4.2.4 Breathable air or gas supply source for breathing apparatus

A source (e.g. chemical oxygen generator or compressed air line) or a vessel (e.g. a gas cylinder) which is capable of supplying uncontaminated breathable air or gas to a breathing apparatus. The quality of the compressed air for breathing apparatus should be in accordance with EN 12021. Further details are given in A.4.5.

5 Programme process

5.1 Employers and self-employed persons responsibilities

5.1.1 Programme policy

The employer and self-employed persons have legal responsibilities for the correct selection, maintenance and issue of respiratory protective devices and the management of their correct use in the workplace. Therefore, they should define and document a suitable policy for a respiratory protective device programme including the objectives for the programme.

The policy should be relevant to the needs of the organisation and adequate for the health and safety risks involved. The policy should be understood at all levels in the organisation.

When developing the policy the employer should involve the device wearers and their representatives.

NOTE The responsibilities of the employer are detailed in the Directive 89/656/EEC.

5.1.2 Provision of respiratory protective devices

There is no charge to the employee when a respiratory protective device is provided.

5.1.3 Organisation

The people tasked with the responsibility, authority, implementation and running of an effective respiratory protective device programme should be able to demonstrate the relevant competency.

5.1.4 Resources

The employer should identify and make available the necessary resources for the implementation and running of an effective programme including the need for supervision, training and developing the relevant competency.

5.1.5 Management review

The employer should review the programme at defined intervals or when necessary to ensure the continued effectiveness of the programme and to monitor the progress of improvement objectives.

In any event a review should take place annually. An audit schedule relevant to the programme should also be put in place to review the effectiveness of implementation at all levels within the employer's responsibilities.

5.1.6 Training

The employer should ensure that the programme supervisors, the wearers and others involved in the maintenance of the devices receive suitable training. Refresher training should be provided as necessary. In any event this should take place at least annually unless otherwise decided by individual risk assessments.

5.1.7 Supervision

The employer should ensure that the devices are used in accordance with the manufacturers instructions and that no respiratory protective device is modified.

5.2 Employees responsibilities

5.2.1 Wearers

Individuals involved in a respiratory protective device programme should always follow procedures and systems laid down by the programme and be responsible for the delegated responsibilities.

Individuals who are provided with and required to wear respiratory protective devices or any other personal protective equipment which includes respiratory devices should use the devices in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions including the pre-use checks and the training provided by the employer. They should make known to their supervisor any problems encountered during wear or use.

5.2.2 Competent persons

Individuals nominated as competent persons should co-operate with their employer to ensure that they have the relevant knowledge, experience and training to undertake respiratory protective device related tasks.

5.3 Manufacturers' responsibilities

Manufacturers or their appointed representatives are responsible for CE-marking (see 9.3.5) the respiratory protective devices before the devices are supplied to users.

Respiratory protective device manufacturers and suppliers should ensure that the information they provide with their devices is accurate, reflects the current knowledge and assists the employers/users in making the correct choice. The duty to select and use adequate and suitable respiratory protective devices remains with the employer.

6 Risk assessment process

The exposure to hazardous substances at work should be eliminated. If this is not reasonably practicable then the exposure should be minimised by other means at source before using respiratory protective devices.

The employer should carry out an adequate and suitable risk assessment wherever hazardous substances are in use or there are foreseeable risks to health and safety.

The risk assessment should take into account at least the hazard, its nature, the sources contributing to the exposure, the degree of exposure, the working environment, the tasks and the people carrying out the tasks, the effectiveness of preventive measures taken or to be taken as well as other foreseeable consequences of failure of protective measures.

When deciding the protective measures, the steps given in Table 1 should be evaluated in the order given and put in place as appropriate. It should be noted that in many workplace situations a combination of the steps described in Table 1 will be needed to minimise exposure. In addition, administrative, including supervisory, systems should be in place to ensure that the protective measures remain adequate at all times.

The risk assessment should be recorded and be kept up to date through a process of regular review or whenever the assessment is found to be no longer valid. A review should take place at least annually.