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Cc: Chen, Jihong (Jane) (CDC/NIOSH/EID) (CTR)
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Comments

Brand specific cylinders to the mfg is a obvious method that manufacturers use to keep people in their brand and keep margin. I have sold SCBA and have been in the industry since '96. I have seen this again and again. The cylinders are made by 3-4 makers, SCI, Luxfer, Carlton, and another. There are about 8 scba brands out there. None (Except perhaps Draeger) can make their own cylinders. The difference is in the valve. At that, most valves are made by Sherwood. The manufacturers buy the blank from whoever is cheapest that month. Opening this up would make for a more free market. Competition would be encouraged.

Thus less strain to the depts to switch brands if they need to or to replace cylinders. The fire service is mostly strapped as it is. The scba had gone up more than double since I have come into the industry. Cylinders should not cost 600-1200 each. They only cost 250 to make with a fair margin.