

NIOSH Respiratory Protective Device Information

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Self-contained breathing apparatus user information regarding compressed breathing gas containers (cylinders), NIOSH approval holder user instructions, and Department of Transportation (DOT) permit and marking



**Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention**
National Institute for Occupational
Safety and Health

Subject: Self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) user information regarding compressed breathing gas containers (cylinders), NIOSH approval holder user instructions, and Department of Transportation (DOT) permit and marking

On October 5, 2017, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) issued special permit 16320 (DOT-SP-16320) Third Edition, to the Digital Wave Corporation. DOT-SP-16320 authorizes the extension of the cylinder original equipment manufacturer (OEM) 15-year service life for certain carbon-fiber reinforced aluminum-lined cylinders (DOT-CFFC) in 5-year increments, up to 15 additional years, for those devices that pass modal acoustic emissions (MAE) requalification testing. DOT-CFFC cylinders include those used by fire departments and first responders as a component of a NIOSH-approved SCBA.

NIOSH has heard from stakeholders who are concerned that allowing the requalification of SCBA beyond the original 15-year service life may result in health and safety issues for users. Accordingly, NIOSH will publish a request for information in the *Federal Register* to seek information and data about safety problems documented by manufacturers or users.

Respiratory protection program administrators and SCBA users with questions or concerns about the application of DOT-SP-16320 to approved and deployed SCBA must review the user instructions, supplemental informational inserts, safety precautions, and SCBA warranty information provided by the NIOSH approval holder. NIOSH encourages approval holders to provide respiratory protection program administrators and SCBA users with current recommendations regarding DOT-SP-16320 and service life limitations.

Further questions can be addressed by the approval holder of NIOSH-approved SCBA with type CFFC originally marked with *DOT-SP-10915, 10945, 11194, 13381, 13179, 13853, 14232, and 14339*.

Supplemental Information:

The following previously issued [Respirator User Notices](#) may also be instructive for respiratory program administrators and users:

Meaning of NIOSH Approvals, March 17, 2006

Use of Replacement and Spare Parts, May 4, 2007

Care and Maintenance of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Units, June 29, 2012