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To: [Undisclosed](#)  
Sent: 7/1/2009 8:38:01 A.M. Central Daylight Time  
Subj: FW: Question on SCBA Cylinders

Chief Smith,

It was a pleasure to talk to you about SCBA's and replacement cylinders.

As we discussed, the NIOSH approval encompasses the whole apparatus or respirator. NIOSH does not approve components but the complete respirator assembly including accessories and the user instructions. The regulation detailing this approval is 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 84. Under Subpart D, Approval and Disapproval, section 80.43(a) and (b), the regulations state:

80.43(a). The Institute (NIOSH) shall issue certificates of approval pursuant to the provisions of this subpart only for individual, completely assembled respirators which have been examined, inspected and tested, and which meet the minimum requirements set forth in subparts H through L of the part, as applicable.

80.43(b) The institute will not issue certificates of approval for any respirator component or for any respirator subassembly.

The NIOSH approval includes the testing and evaluation of the respirator along with the user instructions and labeling. The approval also includes the respirator manufacturer's Quality System. The NIOSH review of the Quality System looks at the level of inspections for each respirator component, the stated acceptable quality levels or limits and the quality level classifications (number of pieces inspected). In addition, the manufacturer is audited by NIOSH at their site once every two years. If the audit is unsatisfactory, NIOSH may revoke the manufacturer's approvals or issue a stop sale until the quality items have been corrected.

In your case, the replacement cylinders must be part of the approved SCBA and must have identifying markings that show that the cylinders are the correct part number and from the correct SCBA manufacturer. The approved components are listed on the NIOSH approval label that was included with the SCBA. If this label is not available, please contact the SCBA manufacturer for this label.

The purchase and use of the replacement cylinders must be through and identified with the SCBA manufacturer's distribution or manufacturing system. The use of any other cylinder that is not identified as part of the approved SCBA system, will put this SCBA into a non-approved configuration and that SCBA will now not carry the NIOSH approval.

Any other questions, please contact me.

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