

BREATHING APPARATUS ADVISORY

This purpose of this advisory is to provide specialist information to our customers.

After reviewing the current legislation and standards encompassing breathing apparatus training we are advising all customers that we are ensuring that the requirements of AS/NZS 1715:2009 "Selection, use and maintenance of respiratory protective equipment", are being achieved. This advisory focuses on the training requirements, facial hair impacts and the wearing of self-contained breathing apparatus.

BREATHING APPARATUS TRAINING

AS/NZS 1715:2009 Section 2.4: *"The frequency of retraining will depend on the complexity of the program and degree of the hazard, but as a minimum shall be considered **at least annually**".*

FACIAL HAIR

AS/NZS 1715:2009 Appendix B Facial Seal of Respirators

"Beard growth, some hairstyles and other facial features prevent an adequate seal between the wearer's face and the fitting surfaces of a face piece or mouthpiece. Facial hair may also interfere with inhalation and exhalation valve operation. The complete sealing surface of the respirator mask should be in contact with the wearer's skin." (refer Appendix B - B1 General)

Wood Training advises that anyone who has stubble, a moustache, sideburns or a beard which passes between the skin and the sealing surface must not wear a respirator which requires a facial seal.

In addition:

All forms of jewellery that may interfere with the facial seal should not be worn while using respirators.

Facial make-up and creams applied to the face, should not be worn because they may migrate during the period of wear and interfere with the facial seal. (refer Appendix B - B6 other factors)