

WAC 296-842-17015 Inspect and repair respirators. (1) Conduct respirator inspections as often as specified in Table 9.

(2) Make sure respirator inspections cover **all** of the following:

- (a) Respirator function;
- (b) Tightness of connections;
- (c) The condition of the facepiece, head straps, valves, connecting tubes, and cartridge, canisters or filters;
- (d) Pliability and deterioration of elastomeric parts;
- (e) Maintenance of air or oxygen cylinders;
- (f) Making sure SCBA air cylinders are at ninety percent of the manufacturer's recommended pressure level;
- (g) Proper functioning of SCBA regulators when air-flow is activated; and
- (h) Proper functioning of SCBA low-pressure warning devices when activated.

(3) Certify inspections for emergency respirators by documenting the following:

- (a) Inspection date;
- (b) Serial number of each respirator or other identifying information;
- (c) Inspector's name or signature;
- (d) Inspection findings; and
- (e) Required action, if problems are found.

Note:

When documenting inspections you may either:

- 1. Provide the information on a tag or label and attach it to the respirator compartment; or
- 2. Include the information in an inspection report stored in paper or electronic files accessible to employees.

(4) Repair or replace any respirator that is not functioning properly **before** the employee returns to a situation where respirators are required.

If respirators fail inspection or are not functioning properly during use due to problems such as leakage, vapor or gas breakthrough, or increased breathing resistance, **ALL** of the following apply:

- (a) Do **NOT** permit such respirators to be used until properly repaired or adjusted;
- (b) Use only NIOSH-certified parts;
- (c) Make sure repairs and adjustments are made by appropriately trained individuals;

Use the manufacturer or a technician trained by the manufacturer to repair or adjust reducing and admission valves, regulators, and warning devices on SCBAs or air-line respirators.

(d) Follow the manufacturer's recommendations and specifications for the type and extent of repairs.

(5) Use Table 9 to determine how often to inspect respirators.

**Table 9
Required Frequencies for Respirator Inspections**

If the respirator is ...	Then inspect ...
A SCBA in any use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before each use; and • During cleaning; or • Monthly if NOT used
Used for nonemergencies, including day-to-day or infrequent use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspect before each use; and • During cleaning
Used only for emergencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check for proper function before and after each use; and

If the respirator is ...	Then inspect ...
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspect at least monthly as instructed by the manufacturer
Used for escape-only purposes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before carrying into a work place for use

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, and 49.17.060. WSR 17-18-075, § 296-842-17015, filed 9/5/17, effective 10/6/17; WSR 07-05-072, § 296-842-17015, filed 2/20/07, effective 4/1/07; WSR 03-20-114, § 296-842-17015, filed 10/1/03, effective 1/1/04.]