

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

**Selection, use and maintenance of  
respiratory protective equipment**

**STANDARDS**  
Australia



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## **AS/NZS 1715:2009**

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee SF-010, Occupational Respiratory Protection. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 2 December 2008 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 18 December 2008. This Standard was published on 6 February 2009.

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The following are represented on Committee SF-010:

Accident Compensation Corporation, New Zealand  
Association of Accredited Certification Bodies  
Australasian Fire Authorities Council  
Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Australian Industry Group  
Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists  
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Australian/New Zealand Standard™

**Selection, use and maintenance of  
respiratory protective equipment**

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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Australia/New Zealand Standards Committee SF-010, Occupational Respiratory Protection, to supersede AS/NZS 1715:1994, *Selection, use and maintenance of respiratory protective devices*.

The objective of this revision is to take into account changes to AS/NZS 1716, *Respiratory protective devices*, and problems of interpretations that have arisen since AS/NZS 1715 was last published in 1994. It also aims to provide some guidance for respirator use by emergency service personnel for special response HAZMAT incidents.

As most readers will not need to refer to the performance and testing specifications, the listings of definitions and referenced Standards have been expanded to include several new definitions and Standards to aid the reader's understanding of the text. Requirements for the performance and testing of respiratory protective devices are specified in AS/NZS 1716.

The main changes to this edition of the Standard are an increased, formalized emphasis of the risk management approach and systems management. To achieve this, the sequence of the text has been re-ordered.

The list of advisory authorities has been deleted. It is considered such information is quickly out of date so any such list may become misleading. Similar information on state advisory OHS bodies can be accessed electronically at the website of the Office of the Australian Safety and Compensation Council (ASCC)— <http://www.ascc.gov.au>

Throughout the text, examples of types of chemicals or the technical concepts have been expanded. Additional warnings about the possible misuse of respirators have also been included. Qualitative facial fit testing has been retained as a suitable means of monitoring a respiratory protection program.

It has been the aim of the Committee to further explain that the provision of an item of respiratory protective equipment (RPE) is only part of ensuring an overall system of respiratory protection for all employees.

Additional relevant Standards that may assist with the selection, care and use of respiratory devices have been listed under the heading of 'Related documents' (Clause 1.4).

The terms 'normative' and 'informative' have been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A 'normative' appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an 'informative' appendix is only for information and guidance.

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## STANDARDS AUSTRALIA/STANDARDS NEW ZEALAND

**Australian/New Zealand Standard****Selection, use and maintenance of respiratory protective equipment**

## SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

**1.1 SCOPE**

This Standard sets out the principles of respiratory protection, requirements and recommendations for the selection, use and maintenance of personal respiratory protective equipment (RPE) in the workplace.

This Standard does not deal with military applications for RPE, but includes special needs of personnel involved in a special response hazardous material (HAZMAT) incident where respiratory concerns need to be addressed.

This Standard does not deal with the special circumstances associated with the use of RPE in diving and underwater breathing (see AS/NZS 2299 and AS 2815), the use of RPE in aircraft, or the use of life support respirators for medical or resuscitation purposes (see AS 2488).

**1.2 OBJECTIVE**

The objective of this Standard is to assist users with the selection use and maintenance of suitable RPE to protect the body against atmospheres deficient in oxygen or against dusts, mists, fumes, smokes, gases, vapours, micro-organisms or combinations of these substances which could enter the body through the respiratory system.

**1.3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS**

The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS	
1210	Pressure vessels
1319	Safety signs for the occupational environment
1345	Identification of the contents of pipes, conduits and ducts
2030	The verification, filling, inspection, testing and maintenance of cylinders for the storage and transport of compressed gases
2030.1	Part 1: Cylinders for compressed gases other than acetylene
2337	Gas cylinder test stations
2337.1	Part 1: General requirements, inspections and tests—Gas cylinders
2488	Resuscitators intended for use with humans
2485	Training and certification of occupational divers (series)
3848	Filling of portable gas cylinders—Filling of portable cylinder for self-contained underwater breathing apparatus (SCUBA) and non-underwater self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA)
3848.2	Part 2: Safe procedures
MP 69	Explosion-protected electrical equipment—Certification scheme—Policy