



BSI Standards Publication

Respiratory protective devices — Selection, use and maintenance

Part 2: Condensed guidance to establishing and implementing a respiratory protective device programme

National foreword

This Published Document is the UK implementation of ISO/TS 16975-2:2016.

This International technical specification introduces the concept of ISO Protection levels (PLs). The ISO PLs represent the degree of respiratory protection that is expected to be provided to wearers by a class of respiratory protective devices (RPD) when used within an effective RPD programme.

The proposed ISO PLs have been derived from professional judgement based on previous assigned protection factors (APF), their associated nominal protection factors (NPF) and knowledge of differences between laboratory and workplace protection performance of current products.

However, until the proposed ISO PLs have been validated, (when RPDs conforming to the requirements of the performance standards are available) they are provided for information only. In the interim period, the assigned protection factors as published by the UK Health and Safety Executive (HSE) in guidance document HSG53 *Respiratory protective equipment at work - A practical guide* (HSE, 2013) should be used.

Further information on the selection of suitable and adequate RPE can be found on the HSE website at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/respiratory-protective-equipment>

Subclause 7.6.4 of this technical specification states that where national or local regulations exist for the breathable gas quality, then these shall be met. Attention is drawn to BS EN 12021 *Respiratory equipment - Compressed gases for breathing apparatus* as a reference standard for breathable gas quality.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee P/13, Respiratory protection.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

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**Respiratory protective devices —
Selection, use and maintenance —**

Part 2:

**Condensed guidance to establishing
and implementing a respiratory
protective device programme**

*Appareils de protection respiratoire — Choix, utilisation et
entretien —*

*Partie 2: Directives condensées pour établir et améliorer un
programme de dispositif de protection respiratoire*



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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 94, *Personal safety — Protective clothing and equipment*, Subcommittee SC 15, *Respiratory protective devices*.

ISO 16975 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Respiratory protective devices — Selection, use and maintenance*:

- *Part 1: Establishing and implementing a respiratory protective device programme* [Technical Specification]
- *Part 2: Condensed guide to establishing and implementing a respiratory protective device programme* [Technical Specification]
- *Part 3: Fit testing procedures*

Introduction

Respiratory protective devices (RPD) should only be used after all practicable control measures have been taken or while they are being implemented, and the risk assessment indicates the presence or potential presence of a hazardous atmosphere.

When RPD is required to control exposure, then the RPD needs to be correctly selected, used and maintained.

This Technical Specification provides a condensed guide for establishing and implementing a complete respiratory protective device programme for RPD that meet the requirements of the performance standards. It is designed for employers especially in small and medium sized enterprises.

This Technical Specification provides basic information on risk assessment, selection procedure, training, use and maintenance. Assistance from the RPD supplier/manufacture or health and safety professional to establish and implement the programme may be required.

It provides guidance on how to do this together with a table to assist in the selection process. It follows a simple step-by-step approach to deciding the minimum level of protection required from the RPD and the most suited to the wearers, the task and workplace conditions.

It is the responsibility of the employer, to correctly select adequate and suitable RPD based on a risk assessment.

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Respiratory protective devices — Selection, use and maintenance —

Part 2:

Condensed guidance to establishing and implementing a respiratory protective device programme

1 Scope

This Technical Specification provides brief guidance to assist persons responsible for establishing and implementing a programme for respiratory protective devices (RPD) that meet the performance requirements. There are special applications where the selection of suitable RPD using this guide is not appropriate. These are:

- Fire Fighting – structural and wildland firefighting, hazardous materials and rescue applications;
- CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear agents);
- Marine – shipboard or off-shore firefighting or hazardous materials applications;
- Mining – underground mining or firefighting and rescue applications; and
- Escape – general, fire, CBRN, marine and mining.

NOTE 1 For more detailed information relating to the special applications, refer to ISO/TS 16975-1.

This guidance does not apply to selecting RPD against bio aerosols.

NOTE 2 Reference [3] addresses selection of RPD for bio aerosols that are capable of causing infection or adverse or allergic response but for which no occupational exposure limits have been established.

This guidance does not apply to RPD programmes for RPD used exclusively under water, in aircraft, and medical life support respirators and resuscitators.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 16972, *Respiratory protective devices — Terms, definitions, graphical symbols and units of measurement*

ISO/TS 16975-1, *Respiratory protective devices — Selection use and maintenance — Part 1: Establishing and implementing a respiratory protective device programme*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 16972 and ISO/TS 16975-1 apply.