



Breathing Air Testing

Technical Information Bulletin - #10

This technical bulletin is designed to provide more information about breathing air testing and the mandatory standards for maintaining respiratory protective equipment.

Breathing air testing requirements

In many industrial and production environments, compressed air is essential not only for powering equipment but also for providing clean, breathable air for staff.

From working in confined spaces, to sandblasting, spray painting, automotive repairs, furniture manufacturing, food production, pharmaceutical and medical devices, many workplaces rely on compressed air systems to supply clean, breathable air for respiratory protection.

It is critical to ensure that this air is free from contaminants, such as moisture, oil, gases, and particles, to safeguard the health of your team and protect your equipment.

Regular testing is required to ensure worker safety and to confirm that your respiratory protection complies with Australian Standards and is used correctly.



Does your breathing equipment regular inspection?

Breathing air testing should be carried out and reported in accordance with AS/NZS 1715:2009 - *Selection, use and maintenance of respiratory protective equipment*.

Regular testing is required, with testing intervals dependent on the volume of air flow through the filtration system and the amount of contaminants the filtration system has to remove.

Annual checking may not be sufficient to show air quality deterioration, which is why at Nessco Pressure Systems, we recommend breathing air testing be conducted every three or six months, depending on the filtration system used.

This testing program helps ensure your workers are safe and that your respiratory protection is compliant with Australian Standards and used in accordance with Work Health and Safety regulations.

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International and Australian Standards and Work Health and Safety Regulations

International and Australian Standards, along with Work Health and Safety laws exist to ensure workplace plant and equipment is safe, ensuring the safety of those who use it.

IOS 8573-1:2010: Compressed Air, Part 1: Contaminants and purity classes - defines air purity standards for compressed air, covering particles, water, oil, gases, and microorganisms.

AS/NZS 1715:2009: Selection, use and maintenance of respiratory protective equipment - covers inspection, repair, cleaning, storage and replacement of breathing air equipment. It sets air purity limits for substances like oil, water, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, and oxygen, and requires the air to be free from harmful contaminants. Note: This standard is being updated; however, the existing and new standards will operate in parallel until 2030.

Work Health and Safety Act 2020; Work Health and Safety (General) Regulations 2022 – includes regulations for the provision, maintenance, repair and replacement of personal protective equipment, including air supplied respiratory equipment.

What's involved in a breathing air test?

When your breathing air equipment is inspected by Nessco Pressure Systems, our experienced service technicians will test odour, oil content, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, oxygen levels, temperature, vapour and humidity to ensure there are no contaminants in the supplied air and that sufficient air is provided to the user. The airlines will be tested and inline filters will also be checked and replaced as required (in accordance with the manufacturer's filter replacement schedule and condition at inspection).

A certificate of compliance will then be provided, confirming the air quality results from your system comply with AS1715:2009 and outlining any best practice recommendations.

Ongoing maintenance and testing of your compressed air system's breathing air is critical

Regular breathing air testing is essential to ensure compliance with Australian Standards and Work Health and Safety Regulations. Adhering to manufacturer specifications for filtration checks and filter replacements is critical. Failure to conduct regular testing and replace filters as recommended can lead to air contamination, compromising both safety and sanitation.

More information

We have a team of technicians qualified to perform breathing air testing. To schedule your breathing air test, call our service team on 1300 290 638 or email info@nesscopressure.com.au.

