



Centers for Disease Control
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NIOSH RESPIRATOR USER NOTICE

Subject: Improper Cylinder Requalification by All-Out Fire Equipment Co., Inc.

In a September 14, 2005 *Federal Register* notice the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) informed the public that All-Out Fire Equipment Co., Inc. of 385 High Street, Holbrook, NY improperly requalified a large number of cylinders. As many of these cylinders may be used for self-contained breathing apparatus, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) wishes to warn respirator users of this potential safety risk.

Cylinders marked by All-Out Fire Equipment Co., Inc. may be distinguished by the use of the retester identification number A261. The requalification marking will appear as follows, where MM represents the month and YY represents the year of test:

MM A 2
 1 6 YY

Anyone possessing a self-contained breathing apparatus cylinder with such a marking should immediately empty it and remove it from service. The cylinder may only be returned to service after successful requalification by a DOT-authorized retest facility. Use of a self-contained breathing apparatus cylinder which has not been tested in accordance with DOT regulations voids the NIOSH approval for the respirator.

More details may be found in the *Federal Register* notice, available on the DOT World Wide Web site at <<http://hazmat.dot.gov/regs/notices/rulemake.htm#70fr-54444>>. Anyone encountering an affected cylinder is encouraged to contact DOT Inspector Chris Michalski at 609-989-2256 for further information. Respirator-related inquiries may be directed to the NIOSH Respirator Branch at 412-386-4000 or by electronic mail at <npptl@cdc.gov>.

Sincerely yours,

Heinz W. Ahlers
Acting Chief
Respirator Branch
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