Respirator Program Audits Following International Standards

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Key questions:

• Are respiratory programs officially required?
• Is there a minimum requirement?
• Must effectiveness of respiratory programs be followed up and documented?
• Are third party audits required?
• Are internal audits required?
Common answer:

- Are respiratory programs officially required? **No.**
- Is there a minimum requirement?
- Must effectiveness of respiratory programs be followed up and documented?
- Are third party audits required?
- Are internal audits required?
Australia

AS1715

“Selection, use and maintenance of respiratory protective devices”
Australia

“A respiratory protection program should be an integral part of the overall hazard identification, risk assessment and control strategy.”
Australia

- Designation of administrator
- Hazard recognition, evaluation and control
- Respirator selection
- Medical screening
- Purchase of approved equipment
- Training
- Issue
- Fitting
- Maintenance
- Storage
- Record keeping
Australia

- Designation of administrator
- Hazard recognition, evaluation and control
- Respirator selection
- Medical screening
- Purchase of approved equipment
- Training
- Issue
- Fitting
- Maintenance
- Storage
- Record keeping
- Audit program for effectiveness and ensure that corrective action is undertaken when necessary
Australia

Audit program:

• “Periodic monitoring of the work areas requiring usage of respirators”
• “Periodic evaluation of the overall respiratory program”
Japan

JIS T 8150-1992

“Guidance for selection, use and maintenance of respiratory protective devices”
Responsibilities of a person in charge of RPDs:

- Degree of hazardousness
- Selection
- Training
- Cautions
- Maintenance
- Laws and regulations
- Other
Responsibilities of a person in charge of RPDs:

• Degree of hazardousness
• Selection
• Training
• Cautions
• Maintenance
• Laws and regulations
• Other
• Audit program
BS 4275:1997

“Guide to implementing an effective respiratory protective device program”
“The complete respiratory protective device program should be regularly audited, to ensure that the program continues to be effective.”
The complete respiratory program…

• SHOULD be regularly audited
• SHOULD be audited every 6 months
• SHOULD be audited more often in high-risk areas
• SHOULD be audited more often in previous program failure areas
Asbestos
Most of Europe

Audit not needed
Why?

• Failure to **UPGRADE** program
• Failure to **IMPLEMENT** program
Why?

• Failure to UPGRADE program
• Failure to IMPLEMENT program

“work environment should be clean — why spend on unnecessary things?”
Why?

Spray painting
Fire fighting
A good program

Commitment

100% of the time
A good program

• 100% commitment
• 100% wear time
• The right device for the right task
• Device functional at work rates required
• Device functional in environment
• Training
• Motivation
• Regular audits
Respirator Missing in action? Audits