Questions and Answers

3M™ Scott™ Ska-Pak Supplied-Air Respirator

Question
What is the 3M™ Scott™ Ska-Pak Supplied-Air Respirator (SAR)?

Answer
The Ska-Pak SAR is a combination Type C positive pressure respirator with escape cylinder for entry and escape from hazardous atmospheres, confined space or immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH) environments.

Question
Where can the Ska-Pak SAR be used?

Answer
The Ska-Pak SAR can be used in environments that are IDLH or could become IDLH.

The Ska-Pak SAR is ideal for many applications, including confined space operations, hazardous materials handling, and general maintenance jobs for numerous markets, including chemical, petrochemical, oil and gas, ship-building and public utilities.

Question
What does the Ska-Pak consist of?

Answer
The respirator consists of an adjustable body harness, a cylinder and valve assembly mounted on the harness for storing compressed breathing air, a pressure reducing regulator with an airline connection hose, a hose assembly connecting the pressure reducer to the mask-mounted regulator (MMR) and a facepiece assembly.

Question
What are the key features of the Ska-Pak Supplied-Air Respirator?

Answer
- Type C combination Supplied-Air Respirator with escape cylinder that is NIOSH approved to provide respiratory protection during entry into, work in and escape from hazardous, confined space, or immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH) situations.
- The E-Z Flo regulator is designed for easy use with gloved hands, enables easy breathing, and has a two-step secure attachment and removal to help ensure worker confidence.
- A cylinder valve mounted pressure gauge.
- Optional “E-Z Fill” auxiliary fitting facilitates direct connection to high-pressure cylinder charging systems to enhance efficiency (only available with the 4500 psi cylinder).
- Hip-mounted cylinder with a durable, secure cylinder band retention system.
- Two harness styles: Fire Resistant Kevlar® or polypropylene harness.
- Multiple cylinder pressures, durations, and airline connector options.
- Top-Down Convertibility.

Question
How is air supplied?

Answer
Breathing air is supplied to Ska-Pak SAR from a remote source. This source may be a permanent or portable cascade system, or an in-plant system for compressed breathing air.

Question
What type of supply air should be used?

Answer
As a Type C respirator, the Ska-Pak SAR requires an air supply that meets the requirements of the Compressed Gas Association (CGA) for Grade “D” or better breathing air. These requirements include air containing no less than 19.5 percent oxygen.

Complete information on CGA requirements may be obtained by requesting the Commodity Specification for Air from CGA Inc., 14501 George Carter Way, Suite 103, Chantilly, VA 20151-2923.

Question
How does the Ska-Pak SAR take advantage of 3M Scott's Top-Down Convertibility?

Answer
The Ska-Pak SAR is compatible with 3M Scott's AV-series facepieces, offering Scott's Top-Down Convertibility. This design platform, pioneered by 3M Scott, allows one facepiece to be used with numerous respiratory protection products, from supplied-air to air purification.

Versatility of facepiece helps lower cost of ownership through reduced fit testing, simplified training, and simplified inventory requirements.

Question
What airline couplings are available for the Ska-Pak?

Answer
The Ska-Pak is available with Hansen, Schrader, CEJN, Hansen HK plug or Hansen HK socket industrial air interchange fittings. The variety of couplings gives users the opportunity to select a specific air supply as a dedicated source of breathing air.

Question
Is the Ska-Pak SAR approved to the latest standards?

Answer
The Ska-Pak SAR is approved to NIOSH 42 CFR Part 84.

Question
What is the shelf life for the Ska-Pak SAR?

Answer
Providing the apparatus is serviced regularly in accordance with the service requirements detailed in the Ska-Pak Service Manual, there are no shelf life limits.

Aluminum-lined, carbon fiber-wrapped cylinders are subject to the lifespan requirements of the US Department of Transportation (DOT).

Question
Why does the Ska-Pak SAR offer 2 different Harness Options?

Answer
The different harness options are available for different application needs. The 2 harness styles are:

- Polypropylene that is lightweight.
- Fire-resistant Kevlar® for high heat environments or when there is potential for sparking.

Question
What escape cylinder options are available?

Answer
Available with the following rated cylinders:
- 5-minute 2216 psi aluminum.
- 15-minute 4500 psi carbon.

Question
Can the Ska-Pak SAR connect with a 3M Scott external air source?

Answer
Yes. The Ska-Pak SAR can be connected to the 3M™ Scott™ portable air sources to build a complete supplied-air system such as the 3M™ Scott™ Mobile Air Cart or the 3M™ Scott™ TRC-1 (Technical Rescue Carts) Air Cart. These external air sources accommodate various compressed air cylinder quantities, sizes and can provide an uninterrupted supply of breathing air for several respirator users.

Question
What is the maximum length of hose that may be used to supply air to the Ska-Pak SAR?

Answer
When employed as an entry/egress system with Hansen, Schrader or CEJN couplings, the Type C airline respirator is capable of being used with up to 300 feet of airline hose (including a maximum of 12 individual segments).

When Hansen HK fittings are employed, the respirator shall be capable of being used up to 150 feet with a maximum of 6 airline segments from the air source.

3M™ Scott™ Airline Hoses are available from 3M™ Scott™ Fire & Safety in Black neoprene rubber material.

Question
Can the air supply pressure for Ska-Pak SAR exceed 125 psig?

Answer
An air source exceeding 125 psig may be used providing the pressure can be reduced to the Ska-Pak's pressure range. The air source must have a safety pressure relief valve to prevent pressures greater than 125 psi from reaching the end user.

Question
What is the minimum air supply requirement for Ska-Pak SAR?

Answer
The air supply system must be capable of maintaining the air pressure at the point of attachment of the supply hose to the air supply system at no less than 60 psig.

Question
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Routine maintenance requirements are described in Ska-Pak's operating and maintenance instructions, which are shipped with each unit.

Question
Where can I get service for the Ska-Pak should it be required?

Answer
3M™ Scott™ Fire & Safety offers an extensive service center network. Authorized technicians can quickly perform any required service, ensuring that critical safety equipment is repaired and placed back into service with minimal downtime.

3M Scott Fire & Safety
Personal Safety Division
Monroe Center, P.O. Box 569
Monroe, NC 28111

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