



October 2025

Dear Valued Customer,

As you may be aware, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) began working on a project several years ago to consolidate related standards to improve how different topics are addressed for the fire services. One of these consolidation standards, NFPA 1850, Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural and Proximity Firefighting and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), 2026 Edition, was recently published with an effective date of September 9, 2025. This standard combines the requirements for selection, care, and maintenance of both protective clothing (previously NFPA 1851) and SCBA (previously NFPA 1852):

- *NFPA 1851, Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting*
- *NFPA 1852, Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)*

The chapters in NFPA 1850 pertaining to SCBA contain new language on recommended retirement for SCBA based on a combination of the year of manufacture and the optional installation of upgrade kits by the SCBA owner. Since this new language has generated questions about what this means for users of older 3M™ Scott™ Air-Pak™ SCBA models, we have prepared the table below to assist in determining the suggested date of retirement based on the new NFPA 1850 guidelines.

To determine the suggested retirement year of your SCBA, follow the logic in the rows and columns based on the NFPA standard edition that your SCBA were manufactured to and whether any NFPA upgrade kits were purchased and installed. Once you have identified the scenario that your SCBA fall under, see the “Retirement Date” column to determine what year the NFPA 1850 Standard recommends for retirement.

SCBA manufactured under:	Has the SCBA been upgraded to a newer standard edition?				NFPA 1850 Retirement Date	Comments
	NFPA 1981, 2007 Edition	NFPA 1981, 2013 Edition	NFPA 1981, 2019 Edition	NFPA 1970, 2025 Edition		
NFPA 1981, 2002 Edition	Yes	No			March 2027	Refer to NFPA 1850, 2025 Edition, Chapter 14.5.2.2.1
NFPA 1981, 2002 Edition	Yes	Yes			20 years (from year of manufacture)	Refer to NFPA 1850, 2025 Edition, Chapter 14.5.2.3
NFPA 1981, 2007 Edition		No	No		March 2027	Refer to NFPA 1850, 2025 Edition, Chapter 14.5.2.2.1
NFPA 1981, 2007 Edition		Yes	No		March 2027	Refer to NFPA 1850, 2025 Edition, Chapter 14.5.2.2.1
NFPA 1981, 2007 Edition		Yes	Yes*		20 years (from year of manufacture)	Refer to NFPA 1850, 2025 Edition, Chapter 14.5.2.2.1
NFPA 1981, 2013 Edition			No	No	15 years (from year of manufacture)	Refer to NFPA 1850, 2025 Edition, Chapter 14.5.2.2
NFPA 1981, 2013 Edition			Yes	No	15 years (from year of manufacture)	Refer to NFPA 1850, 2025 Edition, Chapter 14.5.2.2
NFPA 1981, 2013 Edition			No	Yes	20 years (from year of manufacture)	Refer to NFPA 1850, 2025 Edition, Chapter 14.5.2.3
NFPA 1981, 2019 Edition				No	15 years (from year of manufacture)	Refer to NFPA 1850, 2025 Edition, Chapter 14.5.2.2
NFPA 1981, 2019 Edition				Yes	15 years (from year of manufacture)	Refer to NFPA 1850, 2025 Edition, Chapter 14.5.2.2
NFPA 1970, 2025 Edition					15 years (from year of manufacture)	Refer to NFPA 1850, 2025 Edition, Chapter 14.5.2.2

*Upgrade kits were not available from the NFPA 1981, 2007 Edition standard to NFPA 1981, 2019 Edition standard

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Should you have any questions, please contact us using the information listed below.

Sincerely,

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