

ILLINOIS STATE POLICE DIRECTIVE

EQP-008, RESPIRATORY PROTECTION MASKS

RESCINDS: EQP-008, 2022-170, revised 04-07-2022.	REVISED: 01-03-2023 2023-046
RELATED DOCUMENTS: ISP Respiratory Protection Plan	RELATED CALEA STANDARDS (6th Edition): 17.5.2, 46.1.9, 46.2.3

I. POLICY

The Illinois State Police (ISP) will provide officers with respiratory protection masks that will afford the wearer protection against most contaminants in an oxygen-sufficient atmosphere.

II. DEFINITIONS

II.A. Fit test – a test to ensure an issued respiratory protection mask is the proper size for the wearer and that an airtight seal is achieved between his/her face and the mask in order to determine a correct respirator size and fit.

II.A.1. Qualitative fit test (QLFT) – a pass/fail test to assess the adequacy of the respiratory protection mask fit that relies on the individual's response to a test agent.

II.A.2. Quantitative fit test (QNFT) – an assessment of the respiratory protection mask fit by numerically measuring the amount of leakage into the gas mask.

II.A.3. Negative pressure test – the procedure to check for a correct seal once the respirator has been donned.

II.B. Respiratory Protection Mask

II.B.1. A mask used to protect the face, eyes, and respiratory tract of the wearer from field concentrations of riot control agents and is effective for emergency egress for chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) contaminants.

II.B.2. The respiratory protection mask does **not** protect the wearer against certain hazardous materials, ammonia, carbon monoxide, or other poisonous fumes, nor is it effective in confined spaces where the oxygen content of the atmosphere is too low to maintain functional capabilities (below 19.5%). The respiratory protection mask does not supply or replace oxygen.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES

III.A. The Officer Survival Section Supervisor, Division of the Academy and Training (DAT), or his/her designee, is responsible for:

III.A.1. Overseeing the respiratory protection mask program;

III.A.2. Ensuring all medical evaluations and fit tests are completed for personnel issued a respiratory protection mask;

III.A.3. Coordinating training for all respiratory protection mask program instructors.

III.B. Respiratory protection mask program instructors are responsible for annually inspecting and fit testing respiratory protection masks assigned to personnel consistent with this directive and the ISP Respiratory Protection Plan.

III.C. The ISP Quartermaster, DAT, shall be responsible for:

III.C.1. Ensuring an adequate supply of respiratory protection masks and filters are available; and

- III.C.2. Replacing respiratory protection masks and filters deemed to be expired, damaged, or non-serviceable.
- III.D. Specialized units, such as SWAT, Crowd Control Teams, and the Methamphetamine Response Team must establish policy and procedures for the use, maintenance, and storage of issued respiratory protection masks consistent with this directive and the ISP Respiratory Protection Plan.
- III.E. Sworn personnel who are issued respiratory protection masks are responsible for:
 - III.E.1. Notifying their chain-of-command of any concerns or disorders that may affect their ability to use a respiratory protection mask;
 - III.E.2. The inspection, cleaning, maintenance, and storage of issued respiratory protection masks consistent with this directive and the ISP Respiratory Protection Plan.
 - III.E.3. Use of the respiratory protection masks in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, the training received, applicable ISP policies, and the ISP Respiratory Protection Plan.
- III.F. Work unit commanders are responsible for ensuring compliance with this directive and the ISP Respiratory Protection Plan for their work units.

IV. PROCEDURES

- IV.A. Personnel must be approved to wear respiratory protection in accordance with ISP Respiratory Protection Plan Guidelines.
 - IV.A.1. Personnel selected to use a respiratory protection mask must complete a Respirator Medical Evaluation Questionnaire.
 - IV.A.1.a. The Respirator Medical Evaluation Questionnaire will be reviewed by the Department's Chief Medical Officer.
 - IV.A.1.a.1) The Chief Medical Officer will medically approve individuals to use a respiratory protection mask or determine if an additional medical exam is necessary.
 - IV.A.1.a.2) If the Chief Medical Officer determines an officer requires additional medical testing, the officer shall attend a medical examination at the expense of the Department to determine the officer's fitness to use a respiratory protection mask.
 - IV.A.2. All personnel will be cleared by a physician before being permitted to wear a respiratory protection mask. If the results of a medical examination prohibit an officer from using a respiratory protection mask, the officer will not be issued a mask nor compelled to work in an environment requiring the use of a respiratory protection mask.
- IV.B. The respiratory protection mask is not designed for use with eyeglasses.
 - IV.B.1. Officers who require corrective lenses may wear contact lenses with the respiratory protection mask.
 - IV.B.2. Upon graduation from the ISP Academy, new officers without contact lenses can receive monacles with corrective lenses installed in them for use with the respiratory protection mask. Officers who require replacement monacles for deteriorating vision may contact the Quartermaster for information on replacement monacles.
 - IV.B.3. Officers who need monacles with corrective lenses, and have not yet received them, will be given special consideration when deployment is necessary.

- IV.B.4. Upon receipt of monacles, officers will ensure the monacles are properly inserted in the respiratory protection mask. Special consideration should be made to ensure monacles are inserted and stored without any damage.
- IV.C. As a matter of tactical policy, personnel will put on (don) their respiratory protection mask prior to the use of chemical agents and/or when possible, outside of the contaminated area.
- IV.D. Any facial hair that may interfere with a clean seal between the user's face and the respiratory protection mask's face piece is prohibited.
- IV.E. Training will be conducted in accordance with the ISP Respiratory Protection Plan.
 - IV.E.1. The ISP Academy will provide initial training for all personnel issued a respiratory protection mask. Contents of the training will include:
 - IV.E.1.a. Contents of the ISP Respiratory Protection Plan;
 - IV.E.1.b. Potential hazardous environments which would require use of the respiratory protection mask;
 - IV.E.1.c. Limitations and capabilities of the respiratory protection mask;
 - IV.E.1.d. Proper user seal (fit) checks;
 - IV.E.1.e. Annual fit-testing requirements;
 - IV.E.1.f. Cleaning, maintenance and storage;
 - IV.E.1.g. Medical signs and symptoms limiting the effective use of respirators;
 - IV.E.1.h. ISP guidelines after a potential exposure has occurred.
 - IV.E.2. All personnel issued a respiratory protection mask will receive annual refresher training.
 - IV.E.3. Users must be able to demonstrate their understanding of the topics covered in the training through a documented hands-on exercise.
- IV.F. Respiratory protection mask fit testing will be conducted in accordance with the ISP Respiratory Protection Plan.
 - IV.F.1. At the time of initial issuance, and thereafter on an annual basis, quantitative fit testing shall be used to determine the ability of each officer to obtain a satisfactory fit.
 - IV.F.2. Fit testing will be conducted in accordance with the OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard.
- IV.G. Donning the respiratory protection mask
 - IV.G.1. Whenever an officer reasonably believes that an imminent threat of a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear or Explosive (CBRNE) nature exists, he/she should don the respiratory protection mask along with the appropriate filter that was provided with it.
 - IV.G.2. The respirator must have a filter fitted.
 - IV.G.3. Personnel will don the respiratory protection mask in accordance with the training received from the ISP Academy and with the ISP Respiratory Protection Plan.
 - IV.G.4. The head harness straps should have been pre-adjusted during the annual fit-testing process.
 - IV.G.5. Personnel will perform a negative pressure test to check for a correct seal once the respirator has been donned.
- IV.H. When an officer is required to use a respiratory protection mask, the officer will notify their supervisor of the respiratory protection mask usage as well as any disorder affecting their performance.
- IV.I. Specialized units may use the respiratory protection mask in accordance with their policy and procedures.

- IV.J. Removing (Doffing) the respiratory protection mask
 - IV.J.1. Personnel will doff the respiratory protection mask in accordance with the training received from the ISP Academy and with the ISP Respiratory Protection Plan.
 - IV.J.2. Personnel will not remove (doff) the respiratory protection mask until given the signal of "all clear" by the on-scene supervisor.
 - IV.J.3. Officers should ensure they are outside the threat area prior to removing (doffing) respiratory protection.
 - IV.J.4. If the officer wore the respiratory protection mask due to a CBRNE incident, the on-scene commander, or designee, will collect the mask and filters for proper decontamination or disposal.
- IV.K. Storage
 - IV.K.1. When the respiratory protection mask is not being worn, it will be stored in the proper carrier with the canister not attached.
 - IV.K.2. Filters will be stored in their factory-sealed containers.
 - IV.K.3. Be sure the respiratory protection mask is free of oil or organic solvents and is dry before storing in the carrier.
 - IV.K.4. Keep the interior of the carrier free from dirt and sand.
 - IV.K.5. Officers will make note of the expiration date on the filters of their mask. When the expiration date is within 30 days of the actual date, notify the Quartermaster.
- IV.L. Care and cleaning
 - IV.L.1. Officers are responsible for cleaning the respiratory protection mask after each use and replacing the filters when necessary. Additionally, they are responsible for the issued respiratory protection mask and supporting equipment and shall report any problems or maintenance issues to their supervisor as soon as possible.
 - IV.L.2. A respiratory protection mask that has been contaminated should be cleaned in accordance with training and procedures established in the ISP Respiratory Protection Plan prior to storing.
 - IV.L.2.a. Remove the filter. Do not immerse filter in water.
 - IV.L.2.b. Totally immerse the respiratory protection mask in a solution of warm soapy water and agitate. No abrasives, solvents, or undiluted detergents should be used.
 - IV.L.2.c. The cleaned respiratory protection mask should then be rinsed in clean, warm water and agitated until all soap is removed from the mask.
 - IV.L.2.d. Shake off excess water and allow to air dry.
 - IV.L.3. Lenses
 - IV.L.3.a. Avoid scratching the eye lenses of the respiratory protection mask and refrain from touching the lenses to prevent oily smudges.
 - IV.L.3.b. Do not use alcohol or ammonia-based cleaners, such as Windex, on the lenses.
 - IV.L.3.c. Wash lenses with warm soapy water and dry with a lint-free cloth or soft paper towel.
 - IV.L.4. Filters
 - IV.L.4.a. Filters provide protection against riot control agents and/or CBRNE in an oxygen sufficient environment.

IV.L.4.b. Filters should be replaced under the following conditions:

- IV.L.4.b.1) If they have been immersed in water or have gotten wet through cleaning or inclement weather.
- IV.L.4.b.2) When excessive breathing resistance is experienced.
- IV.L.4.b.3) When the filter has expired.

IV.L.4.c. Detail Commander or Officer in Charge (OIC) shall coordinate for on-scene disposal of all contaminated equipment.

IV.L.4.d. All contaminated respirators shall be collected at the end of the detail for decontamination.

IV.M. Inspection

IV.M.1. Each officer who has been issued a respiratory protection mask will keep it stored in their assigned vehicle while on duty.

IV.M.1.a. Officers will inspect their respiratory protection mask quarterly during Control and Arrest Tactics (CAT) training.

IV.M.1.b. Officers will conduct fit testing annually.

IV.M.2. During annual fit testing, the respiratory protection mask will be inspected for wear and serviceability.

IV.M.3. Any respiratory protection mask that appears to be defective will be placed out of service and returned to the Quartermaster for replacement.

| IV.M.4. The Troop and/or the Quartermaster will maintain a supply of replacement filters.

| Indicates new or revised items.

-End of Directive-