- WAC 296-307-61015 Inspect and repair respirators. (1) The employer must conduct respirator inspections as often as specified in Table 9.
- (2) The employer must make sure respirator inspections cover **all** of the following:
 - (a) Respirator function;
 - (b) Tightness of connections;
- (c) The condition of the facepiece, head straps, valves, connecting tubes, and cartridge, canisters or filters;
 - (d) Pliability and deterioration of elastomeric parts;
 - (e) Maintenance of air or oxygen cylinders;
- (f) Making sure SCBA air cylinders are at ninety percent of the manufacturer's recommended pressure level;
- (g) Proper functioning of SCBA regulators when air-flow is activated;
- (h) Proper functioning of SCBA low-pressure warning devices when activated.
- (3) The employer must certify inspections for emergency respirators by documenting the following:
 - (a) Inspection date;
- (b) Serial number of each respirator or other identifying information;
 - (c) Inspector's name or signature;
 - (d) Inspection findings;
 - (e) Required action, if problems are found.

Note:

When documenting inspections the employer may either:

1. Provide the information on a tag or label and attach it to the respirator compartment;

OR

- 2. Include the information in an inspection report stored in paper or electronic files accessible to employees.
- (4) The employer must repair or replace any respirator that is not functioning properly **before** the employee returns to a situation where respirators are required.
- (a) If respirators fail inspection or are not functioning properly during use due to problems such as leakage, vapor or gas breakthrough, or increased breathing resistance, **ALL** of the following apply:
- (i) Do **NOT** permit such respirators to be used until properly repaired or adjusted;
 - (ii) Use only NIOSH-certified parts;
- (iii) Make sure repairs and adjustments are made by appropriately trained individuals.
- (b) Use the manufacturer or a technician trained by the manufacturer to repair or adjust reducing and admission valves, regulators, and warning devices on SCBAs or air-line respirators.
- (c) Follow the manufacturer's recommendations and specifications for the type and extent of repairs.

Use Table 9 to determine how often to inspect respirators.

Table 9
Required Frequencies for Respirator Inspections

If the respirator is	Then inspect
A SCBA in any use	• Before each use
	AND
	During cleaning
	OR
	• Monthly if NOT used

If the respirator is	Then inspect
Used for nonemergencies, including day-to-day or infrequent use	Inspect before each use
	AND
	During cleaning
Used only for emergencies	• Check for proper function before and after each use
	AND
	• Inspect at least monthly as instructed by the manufacturer
Used for escape-only purposes	Before carrying into a work place for use

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, and 49.17.060. WSR 20-21-091, § 296-307-61015, filed 10/20/20, effective 11/20/20; WSR 05-01-166, § 296-307-61015, filed 12/21/04, effective 4/2/05.]