

# AIR CONTAMINANT – RESPIRATORY PROTECTION POLICY

POLICY NO. D10

ACT CORRECTIVE SERVICES



**ACT**  
Government

Justice and Community Safety

**Contents**

1    **PURPOSE..... 3**

2    **SCOPE..... 3**

3    **DEFINITIONS ..... 3**

4    **PRINCIPLES..... 3**

5    **COMPRESSED AIR BREATHING APPARATUS (CABA)..... 4**

6    **SMOKE HOODS..... 4**

7    **INSPECTIONS..... 4**

8    **TRAINING ..... 5**

9    **RELATED DOCUMENTS ..... 5**

## 1 PURPOSE

ACT Corrective Services (ACTCS) is committed to ensuring that staff members have access to suitable Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). In the event of a fire or emergency incident in a correctional centre Compressed Air Breathing Apparatus and smoke hoods provide appropriate respiratory protection for evacuating persons or assisting ACT Fire and Rescue (ACTF&R) response.

This policy provides instructions for the appropriate location, maintenance and training for Compressed Air Breathing Apparatus and smoke hoods.

## 2 SCOPE

This policy applies to all correctional centres in the ACT.

## 3 DEFINITIONS

**Compressed Air Breathing Apparatus (CABA)** Equipment that enables the wearer to work in an atmosphere that would be otherwise hazardous to the person.

**Smoke Hoods** Equipment that filters air for approximately 15 minutes from activation.

## 4 PRINCIPLES

- 4.1 ACTCS staff are not trained in offensive firefighting or hazardous material response but may be required to wear CABA equipment to support ACTF&R operations in the Alexander Maconochie Centre.
- 4.2 CABA equipment is to be used in evacuating a low oxygen or toxic environment, assisting ACTF&R or responding to an early-stage fire as identified during training. ACTCS staff are not to use CABA equipment to attempt significant fire suppression or offensive firefighting activities.
- 4.3 The use of Smoke Hoods by staff must only be for preservation of life (self and others) or to exit hazardous environments and not for significant fire response.
- 4.4 The use of other forms of respiratory protection for specialised tasks, e.g. in maintenance or industry activities, must comply with material data safety sheets or the level of inherent risk.

## 5 COMPRESSED AIR BREATHING APPARATUS (CABA)

- 5.1 Staff will use CABA equipment to self-evacuate and evacuate other staff, visitors and detainees from a low oxygen or toxic environment, to assist an ACTF&R response or to respond to an early-stage, contained fire in accordance with training and operating procedures.
- 5.2 CABA equipment must be located in all buildings where detainees cannot self-evacuate and according to any direction of the Assistant Commissioner Custodial Operations.
- 5.3 CABA equipment must be utilised where necessary by designated CABA teams comprised of two or more officers.
- 5.4 To allow the safe use of CABA equipment, staff must ensure CABA sets are fitted and worn correctly with appropriate sealing of the face mask.
- 5.5 The safety standard AS/NZS 1715:2009 Respiratory Protective Equipment states that individuals should be clean shaven around their necks, cheeks and jaw in order to guarantee the formation of a proper seal. ACTCS recommends staff should report for duty sufficiently clean shaven around their neck, cheeks and jaw to facilitate the formation of a secure seal and to protect the health and safety of themselves and others.

## 6 SMOKE HOODS

- 6.1 Smoke hoods are located in all Officers' Stations.
- 6.2 Smoke hoods must only be used by staff to evacuate self or other from a low oxygen or toxic environment, not for response purposes.

## 7 INSPECTIONS

- 7.1 The Assistant Director – Fire Protection must coordinate:
  - a. inspections of smoke hoods annually to ensure they are correctly sealed and in-date
  - b. inspections of all CABA sets and support equipment as per the Equipment Maintenance Agreement between ACT Corrective Services and ACTF&R
  - c. an annual stocktake and audit of all ACTCS CABA sets and support equipment in consultation with ACTF&R as per the Equipment Maintenance Agreement

- d. liaising with ACTF&R:
  - i. on the maintenance or replacement of CABA equipment.
  - ii. when any CABA equipment requires cleaning or decontamination; and
  - iii. when breathing apparatus cylinders require refilling.

7.2 Supervisors must ensure Compressed Air Breathing Apparatus and smoke hoods are in place as part of the Supervisor Daily Compliance Checklist.

## 8 TRAINING

- 8.1 The Assistant Commissioner Custodial Operations must ensure that all custodial officers maintain current training in the use of CABA equipment and smoke hoods.
- 8.2 Mandatory training requirements for custodial officers are as follows:
  - a. one (1) full day initial training; and
  - b. one (1) half-day refresher course each year.
- 8.3 CABA equipment must only be used by staff who meet mandatory training requirements.
- 8.4 Staff must only use CABA equipment and smoke hoods in accordance with training.
- 8.5 All training records must be retained by the Organisational Capability Unit in accordance with the Territory Records Act 2002.

## 9 RELATED DOCUMENTS

- ACTCS Breathing Apparatus Service Check
- Supervisor Daily Compliance Checklist
- Equipment Maintenance Agreement
- [Court Transport Unit - Incident Response CODE RED - Major Fire](#)
- [Code Red \(Fire\)](#) (Alexander Maconochie Centre)



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A/g Commissioner  
ACT Corrective Services  
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## Document details

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