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SINGAPORE STANDARD

Code of practice for selection, use and maintenance of respiratory protective devices

(Formerly CP 74)

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The Technical Committee on Personal Safety and Health appointed by the General Engineering and Safety Standards Committee and responsible for the preparation of this standard consists of representatives from the following organisations:

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The Working Group appointed by the Technical Committee to assist in the preparation of this standard comprises the following experts who contributed in their *individual capacity*:

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The organisations in which the experts of the Working Group are involved are:

3M Technologies (S) Pte Ltd
Draeger Safety Asia Pte Ltd
Health Promotion Board
Ministry of Manpower
National University of Singapore
Shell Chemicals Seraya Pte Ltd
Shell Eastern Petroleum Pte Ltd
Singapore Civil Defence Force
Singapore General Hospital

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Foreword

This Singapore Standard was prepared by a Working Group appointed by the Technical Committee for Personal Safety and Health under the purview of the General Engineering and Safety Standards Committee. It is a revision of the code of practice, CP 74 which was first prepared in 1998. CP 74 has been re-numbered as SS 548.

The revisions made were mainly to widen the scope of the Code to cover the use of the respiratory devices against biological and radioactive hazards. Other changes include updating the standard to ensure relevance to the latest regulations and good practices. The standard also includes additional information on selection, usage and maintenance of respirators, and medical examination for fitness to wear respirators.

In preparing this standard, reference was made to the following publications:

1. AS/NZS 1715 : 2009 Selection, use and maintenance of respiratory protective equipment

2. AS/NZS 2243.3 : 2002 Safety in laboratories – Part 3 : Microbiological aspects and containment facilities

3. BS EN 529 : 2005 Respiratory protective devices – Recommendations for selection, use, care and maintenance

4. Biological Agents and Toxins Act 2005

5 OSHA 1910.134 on Respiratory Protection

6. Practical Radiation Technical Manual, Personal Protective Equipment International Atomic Energy Agency 2004

7. Radiation Protection Act 2008

8. The Workplace Safety and Health Act (Chapter 354A) 2006

9. The Workplace Safety and Health (General Provisions) Regulations 2006

10. WHO Laboratory Biosafety Manual Third Ed 2004

Acknowledgement is made for the use of information from the above publications.

NOTE

1. *Singapore Standards (SSs) and Technical References (TRs) are reviewed periodically to keep abreast of technical changes, technological developments and industry practices. The changes are documented through the issue of either amendments or revisions.*

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Code of practice for selection, use and maintenance of respiratory protective devices

1 General

1.1 Scope

This code sets forth accepted practices for respirator users. It provides information and guidance on the selection, use, and maintenance of respirators and contains recommendations for establishing respiratory protection programme. The code covers the use of respirators to protect persons against the inhalation of contaminants and oxygen-deficient atmospheres in the workplace.

The code does not cover the following:

- use of respirators under military combat conditions;
- life support ventilators for medical or resuscitation purposes;
- masks (including surgical masks);
- respirators used in a non-occupational setting (e.g. public health emergencies).

A mask is not a respiratory protective device. It has neither adequate filtering nor fitting attributes to provide respiratory protection for the wearer. It is designed to minimise contamination of the work environment or sterile field from large particles generated by the wearer (e.g. spit, mucous). It is not necessarily designed to eliminate air leakage around the edges.

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this code is to provide information and guidance on the selection, use and maintenance of respirators that will help safeguard the life and health of users. It also provides guidance on the planning and implementation of a respiratory protection programme.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this standard. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

AS/NZS 1715 Selection, use and maintenance of respiratory protective equipment

CP 12 The filling, inspection, testing and maintenance of containers for the storage and transport of compressed gases

CP 84 Entry into and safe working in confined space