

SCHEDULE 23

Rule 115(1)(a)

BREATHING APPARATUS

1. Every breathing apparatus provided in compliance with these Rules may be either—
 - (a) a smoke helmet or a smoke mask, each of which shall be provided with an air pump or bellows and an air hose; or
 - (b) a self-contained breathing apparatus.

Smoke helmet and smoke mask

2. Every smoke helmet or smoke mask provided in compliance with these Rules shall be provided with a hose for the supply of air from the outside atmosphere. An air pump or bellows shall be provided which shall be suitable for pumping air through the hose. The hose shall be of the non-collapsing type and shall be sufficient in length to enable the air pump or bellows to be on the open deck in clean air well clear of any hatch or doorway while the wearer of the helmet or mask is in any part of the accommodation, service, hold or machinery spaces. Efficient couplings shall be provided if two or more lengths of hose are to be joined in order to reach the aforesaid spaces. The air inlet to the pump or bellows shall be so protected as to ensure that the supply of air cannot be obstructed.

Self-contained breathing apparatus

- (a) (a) Every self-contained breathing apparatus provided in compliance with these Rules shall be of the open circuit compressed air type.
- (b) The storage capacity of the compressed air cylinder or cylinders attached to the apparatus and carried by the wearer shall be at least 1,200 litres of free air. The storage cylinders shall be constructed of suitable material and shall be of efficient design and of sufficient strength to withstand with an adequate factor of safety the internal air pressure to which they may be subjected, and each cylinder shall be capable of withstanding a test by hydraulic pressure suitably in excess of the maximum working pressure.
- (c) Means shall be provided for the automatic regulation of the air supply to the wearer of the apparatus in accordance with his breathing requirements when he is breathing any volume of free air of up to 85 litres per minute at any time when the pressure in the supply cylinder or cylinders is above 10 kilogrammes force per square centimetre. Means shall be provided for overriding the automatic air supply valve.
- (d) A pressure gauge with an anti-bursting orifice shall be incorporated in the high-pressure air supply system to enable the wearer to read directly and easily the pressure of air in the supply cylinder or cylinders.
- (e) Means shall be provided for warning the wearer audibly when 80 per cent of the usable capacity of the apparatus has been consumed.
- (f) The maximum weight of any such apparatus shall not exceed 16 kilogrammes excluding any lifeline and, if they do not form an integral part of the apparatus, any safety belt or harness.
- (g) Every self-contained breathing apparatus shall be provided with fully charged spare cylinders having a spare storage capacity of at least 2,400 litres of free air except that:—
 - (i) if the vessel is carrying five sets or more of such apparatus the total spare storage capacity of free air shall not be required to exceed 9,600 litres; or
 - (ii) if the vessel is equipped with means for re-charging the air cylinders to full pressure with air free from contamination, the spare storage capacity of the fully charged spare cylinders of each such apparatus shall be of at least 1,200 litres of free air, and

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the total spare storage capacity of free air provided in the vessel shall not be required to exceed 4,800 litres.

- (h) A servicing and instruction manual shall be kept with each such apparatus.

General

- (a) (a) Every breathing apparatus shall be constructed of materials having adequate mechanical strength, durability and resistance to deterioration by heat or by contact with water and such materials shall be resistant to fire and shall not allow the breathing circuit to be penetrated by smoke or chemical fumes likely to be encountered in service. The fabric used in the construction of any harness provided with such apparatus shall be resistant to shrinkage. Exposed metal parts of the apparatus, harness and fittings shall be of materials so far as practicable resistant to frictional sparking.
- (b) The following equipment shall be provided for use with each set of breathing apparatus:—
- (i) a fire-proof life-and-signalling-line at least 3 metres longer than is required to reach from the open deck in clean air well clear of any hatch or doorway to any part of the accommodation, service, hold or machinery spaces. The line shall be made of copper or galvanised steel wire rope having a breaking strength of at least 510 kilogrammes and shall be overlaid up to at least 32 millimetres in circumference by hemp or other covering to provide a surface which can be firmly gripped when wet;
 - (ii) an adjustable safety belt or harness to which such line shall be capable of being securely attached and detached by the wearer by means of a snap-hook;
 - (iii) means for protecting the eyes and face of the wearer against smoke;
 - (iv) plates of suitable non-flammable material bearing a clearly legible code of signals to be used between the wearer and his attendant, one of which shall be attached to the safety belt or harness and another attached to the free end of the life-line;
 - (v) (for every apparatus other than a smoke helmet) a lightweight safety helmet with lining and adjustable head-band.
- (c) Every breathing apparatus shall be clearly marked with the name of the maker or vendor and the year of manufacture. Operating instructions in clear and permanent lettering shall be affixed to such apparatus.