

February 6, 1998

David R. Senter
Body and Paint Shop
1131 SE Powell
Portland, OR. 97202

Dear Mr. Senter:

This is in response to your letter of January 20, 1998. In your letter you ask, "When an oil lubricated compressor is used to supply breathing air, where in the system do the carbon monoxide and high temperature alarms need to be located?"

The current respiratory protection standard requires that oil lubricated compressors have a carbon monoxide or high temperature alarm or both.

The carbon monoxide alarm's purpose is to notify the respirator user when carbon monoxide levels in the breathing air exceed 10 parts per million (ppm). The carbon monoxide alarm must be between the output of the compressor and the inlet of the respirator.

The high temperature alarm's function is to notify personnel when the compressor reaches a point where it could support combustion of the oil in the compressor and produce carbon monoxide. Due to the function of this alarm it must be placed on the compressor similar to the way a temperature gauge is attached to a vehicle motor.

For further information contact Rodney Boast at 378-3272. You are also invited to see the OR-OSHA pages on the Internet at www.cbs.state.or.us/external/osha/index.html.

Sincerely,

Marilyn K. Schuster, Manager
Standards & Technical Resources Section
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division

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