Program Directive __A-166
Issued ______ July 17, 1979
Revised ______ September 14, 2000

SUBJECT: Respiratory Protection: Possible Defects on Scott Air Pak II/IIA and
Presur-Pak II/IIA Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)

AFFECTED CODES/DIRECTIVES: 1910.134(a)(2) and 1910.134(f)

PURPOSE: To remind users of possible defects in the above-mentioned Scott SCBAs
and to inform them of procedures for verifying proper operation of the
units.

BACKGROUND: Three Texas firefighters died in the line of duty while wearing these
respirators. A sampling of apparatus in the field by NIOSH revealed a
significant percentage of the respirators had split or punctured diaphragms.
Some of these respirators may still be in-service.

ACTION: A. Users should examine their Scott apparatus for possible damaged
diaphragms and replace those diaphragms in accordance with
manufacturer's instructions. The user may check the diaphragm
before each use by closing both the main line and bypass valves,
and blowing through the regulator outlet port. It should be possible
to maintain a slight positive pressure in the regulator. The user
should check the regulator diaphragm after each use and during
regular inspections of the complete apparatus. It is not known if
failure occurs during assembly, storage, or use of the respirator
regulator. Therefore, extreme caution must be employed when
using the respirator. In checking the operation of the apparatus,
users are cautioned not to obstruct the flow of air from the
regulator when the bypass is open because substantial obstruction
may rupture the diaphragm.

B. Scott Air Pak II/IIA units may also be checked by the following
method:

1. Close both red and yellow regulator valves.
2. Disconnect breathing air tube.
3. Remove regulator cover by taking out two screws near breathing tube outlet and loosening the screw between the red and yellow knobs. Lift off cover.
4. Inspect diaphragm for visible holes or tears.
5. If the diaphragm appears undamaged, check for small holes by coating with soapy water.
6. Blow gently until the diaphragm inflates and watch for either bubbles or any flow of air.
7. If you find any leaks, replace with Scott 14314-01 diaphragm, or equivalent.

C. Compliance officers should verify that these diaphragm tests have been performed and the units are operating properly before they are put back into service.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This directive will remain in effect until cancelled or superseded.