

## PROGRAM DIRECTIVE

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.