

SSINS No.: 6835
IN 85-48

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

June 19, 1985

IE INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 85-48: RESPIRATOR USERS NOTICE: DEFECTIVE SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS AIR CYLINDERS

Addressees:

All nuclear power reactor facilities holding an operating license (OL) or a construction permit (CP), research and test reactor licensees, fuel cycle licensees, and Priority 1 material licensees.

Purpose:

This information notice is to alert licensees of two recent "Respirator Users Notices" issued by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), concerning a serious defect in self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). This updates information previously provided in Information Notice 84-34. It is expected that licensees will review the information for applicability to their facilities and consider actions, if appropriate, to preclude use of a potentially defective respirator. However, suggestions contained in this notice do not constitute NRC requirements; therefore, no specific action or response is required.

Description of Circumstances:

Information Notice 84-34, issued on April 23, 1984, discussed a serious safety defect in SCBA hoop-wrapped aluminum air cylinders rated at 4500 psi and manufactured under the Department of Transportation (DOT) Exemption DOT-E-7235. Appropriate warning notices from DOT, HHS, Scott Aviation and Survivair were included.

On November 20, 1984, HHS issued a Respirator Users Notice announcing the recall of a product manufactured by Luxfer USA, Ltd. (Attachment 1). On May 7, 1985, HHS issued another Respirator Users Notice on the same subject which also described a reported explosion (Attachment 2).

Evidently not all end-users of the affected Luxfer SCBA cylinders have responded to the manufacturer's product recall. The reported catastrophic cylinder failures have demonstrated an extreme personnel hazard. In the interest of safety for workers, licensees may wish to share this information with other potential users, such as local fire departments, along with checking their own cylinders.

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IN 85-48
June 19, 1985
Page 2 of 2

No specific action or written response is required by this information notice. If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Luxfer USA, Ltd. or the Regional Administrator of the appropriate NRC regional office or this office.

Edward L. Jordan, Director
Division of Emergency Preparedness
and Engineering Response
Office of Inspection and Enforcement

Technical Contacts: J. E. Wigginton, IE
(301) 492-4967

R. L. Pedersen, IE
(301) 492-9475

Attachments:

1. Respirator Users Notice (November 20, 1984)
2. Respirator Users Notice (May 7, 1985)
3. List of Recently Issued IE Information Notices