



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL
5109 LEESBURG PIKE
FALLS CHURCH VA 22041-3258**



DASG-PPM-NC

02 JUL 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Policy for Escape Only Respirator Medical Clearance

1. References:

- a. AR 11-34, The Army Respiratory Protection Program, 15 February 1990.
- b. AR 385-61, The Army Chemical Agent Safety Program, 28 February 1997.
- c. TB MED 502, Occupational and Environmental Health, Respiratory Protection Program, February 1982.
- d. 29CFR1910.134, Respiratory Protection.
- e. 29CFR1910.134 App C, OSHA Respiratory Medical Evaluation Questionnaire (Mandatory).

2. Background. Workers who are not normally required to use a respirator as a part of their routine duties are designated for "escape only" respirator use when conditions warrant that protection be made available. The only personnel to whom an "escape only" respirator should be issued are those who require the use of a respirator only long enough to escape from an area during an emergency. "Escape only" respirators are not intended for personnel who would normally work in a contaminated area. This memorandum clarifies medical clearance for all "escape only" respirators.

3. 29CFR1910.134 App C part A section 1 and section 2 (the medical questionnaire) will be used for "escape only" respirator clearance. The use of a medical questionnaire does not substitute for sound medical judgment. The health care provider must evaluate positive responses to any of the questions listed. Asking clarifying questions and documenting the results in the medical record may be sufficient. Some responses may require medical testing prior to issuing a clearance. Personnel who cannot be cleared should not enter areas where an "escape only" respirator is required.

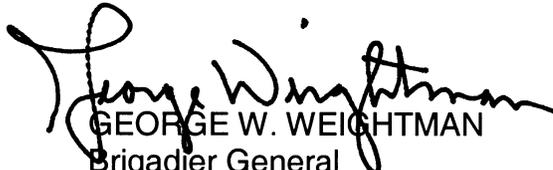
4. This change is effective immediately.

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5. The POC for this action is COL Paul Smith, DSN 761-0022.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


GEORGE W. WEIGHTMAN
Brigadier General
Assistant Surgeon General
for Force Projection

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CF:

Commander, 18th Medical Command, ATTN: Surgeon
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