

NFPA 1852

Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)

2002 Edition



NFPA, 1 Batterymarch Park, PO Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269-9101
An International Codes and Standards Organization

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NFPA 1852

Standard on

Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)

2002 Edition

This edition of NFPA 1852, *Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Respiratory Protection and Personal Alarm Equipment, released by the Technical Correlating Committee on Fire and Emergency Services Protective Clothing and Equipment, and acted on by NFPA at its November Association Technical Meeting held November 10–14, 2001, in Dallas, TX. It was issued by the Standards Council on January 11, 2002, with an effective date of January 31, 2002.

This edition of NFPA 1852 was approved as an American National Standard on January 31, 2002.

Origin and Development of NFPA 1852

The Committee was assigned the responsibility of addressing selection, care, and maintenance issues for open-circuit self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). To address these issues, the Committee developed this new document, NFPA 1852, which is oriented to the users of such SCBA and their respective organizations.

This new document was developed for organizations that use SCBA for the respiratory protection of their personnel who engage in emergency operations with the goal of reducing the safety risks and potential health risks associated with poorly maintained, contaminated, or damaged SCBA.

This document was also developed to fulfill the SCBA selection, care, and maintenance portions of the overall respiratory protection program required by NFPA 1500, *Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program*, and applies to all SCBA that are certified as compliant with the current and previous editions of NFPA 1981, *Standard on Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for Fire and Emergency Services*.

During the development of this document, committee member Deputy Chief Robert Kolenda of the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Bureau of Fire (PBF) worked tirelessly to develop meaningful requirements to assure the safety of fire and emergency services personnel who depend on SCBA for their respiratory protection and their lives. Chief Kolenda lost his son, Pittsburgh Fire Fighter Marc Kolenda, at a fire, due in part to inadequate protection provided by his SCBA.

The Committee wishes to honor the memories of the Pittsburgh fire fighters who died in the line of duty on 14 February 1995: Captain Thomas Brooks, who joined the PBF on 15 January 1982; Fire Fighter Patricia Conroy, who joined the PBF on 21 September 1987; and Fire Fighter Marc Kolenda, who joined the PBF on 8 November 1993.

The Committee also wishes to pay tribute to PBF members Deputy Chief Robert Kolenda (retired with 29 years' service) and Captain Michael Kreuger (retired with 31 years' service) for their commitment to make the fire service a safer occupation for all fire fighters. Both Chief Kolenda and Captain Kreuger worked on the development and finalization of NFPA 1852 past their retirements from the PBF and deserve considerable recognition for their efforts.

In Memoriam, September 11, 2001

We pay tribute to the 343 members of FDNY who gave their lives to save civilian victims on September 11, 2001, at the World Trade Center. They are true American heroes in death, but they were also American heroes in life. We will keep them in our memory and in our hearts. They are the embodiment of courage, bravery, and dedication. May they rest in peace.

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Committee Scope: This Committee shall have primary responsibility for documents on the design, performance, testing, and certification of protective clothing and protective equipment manufactured for fire and emergency services organizations and personnel, to protect against exposures encountered during emergency incident operations. This Committee shall also have the primary responsibility for documents on the selection, care, and maintenance of such protective clothing and protective equipment by fire and emergency services organizations and personnel.

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Committee Scope: This Committee shall have primary responsibility for documents on protective equipment that provides respiratory protection for fire fighters or other emergency services responders during incidents involving operations conducted in hazardous or oxygen deficient atmospheres. These operations include the activities of rescue, fire suppression, hazardous materials mitigation, and property conservation where exposures to an oxygen deficient atmosphere or an atmosphere contaminated with harmful particulate, fog, fume, mist, gas, smoke, spray, or vapor will or could occur.

This committee shall also have primary responsibility for documents on personal monitor/alarm/distress devices for responders operating in hazardous atmospheres or in hazard areas at incidents where entrapment, disorientation, or other responder personal emergency could occur.

Additionally, this committee shall have primary responsibility for documents on the selection, care, and maintenance of respiratory and personal alarm equipment by fire and emergency services organizations and personnel.

These lists represent the membership at the time the Committees were balloted on the final text of this edition. Since that time, changes in the membership may have occurred. A key to classifications is found at the back of the document.

NOTE: Membership on a committee shall not in and of itself constitute an endorsement of the Association or any document developed by the committee on which the member serves.

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NFPA 1852**Standard on****Selection, Care, and Maintenance
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Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)****2002 Edition**

NOTICE: An asterisk (*) following the number or letter designating a paragraph indicates that explanatory material on the paragraph can be found in Annex A.

Information on referenced publications can be found in Chapter 2 and Annex D.

Chapter 1 Administration**1.1 Scope.**

1.1.1 This standard shall specify minimum requirements for the selection, care, and maintenance of open-circuit self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and combination SCBA/SAR that are used for respiratory protection during fire fighting, rescue, and other hazardous operations.

1.1.2 This standard shall specify the requirements for SCBA models as detailed in Section 1.3.

1.1.3 This standard shall specify the requirements for SCBA that are equipped with SCBA-integrated Personal Alert Safety Systems (PASS), also certified as compliant with NFPA 1982, *Standard on Personal Alert Safety Systems (PASS)*, as applicable.

1.1.4 This standard shall specify the requirements for the SCBA selection, care, and maintenance component of the respiratory protection program required by NFPA 1500, *Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program*.

1.1.5 This standard shall not specify requirements for any closed-circuit SCBA.

1.1.6 This standard shall not specify requirements for other respiratory protection program components of the organization such as SCBA training, appropriate use of SCBA for operations, and breathing air quality as these program components are under the jurisdiction of other NFPA standards.

1.1.7 This standard shall not specify requirements for accessories attached to the SCBA unless specifically addressed herein.

1.1.8 Nothing herein shall restrict any jurisdiction from exceeding these minimum requirements.

1.2 Purpose.

1.2.1 The purpose of this standard shall be to establish procedures as part of a program to provide care and maintenance for open-circuit SCBA and combination SCBA/SAR in order to reduce the safety risks and potential health risks associated with poorly maintained, contaminated, or damaged SCBA.

1.2.2 This standard shall also establish basic criteria for the evaluation and selection process associated with purchasing open-circuit SCBA to assure only SCBA that meet the requirements of NFPA 1981, *Standard on Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for the Fire Service*; and, where SCBA are

equipped with SCBA-integrated PASS, also certified as compliant with NFPA 1982, *Standard on Personal Alert Safety Systems (PASS)*, as applicable, are acquired for use by fire and emergency services organizations.

1.3 Application.**1.3.1 New and Existing SCBA.**

1.3.1.1 For fire departments, this standard shall apply to the requirements for selection, care, and maintenance of the SCBA component of the fire department's respiratory protection program as required by Section 7.9 of NFPA 1500, *Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program*.

1.3.1.2 This standard shall apply to the acquisition of new open-circuit SCBA and to the preparation of new SCBA to go into the "in service" status.

1.3.1.3 This standard shall apply to the organization's existing open-circuit SCBA, other than as constrained by 1.3.1.7 and 1.3.1.8, that are covered in the care and maintenance part of the respiratory protection program for open-circuit SCBA, and shall also apply to the selection process to acquire new open-circuit SCBA to augment or replace existing SCBA.

1.3.1.4 This standard shall apply to open-circuit SCBA that were confirmed by the SCBA manufacturer as meeting the requirements of the 1987 edition of NFPA 1981, *Standard on Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for Fire Fighters*.

1.3.1.5 This standard shall apply to open-circuit SCBA that were certified by an independent third-party certification organization as compliant with the 1992 edition of NFPA 1981, *Standard on Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for Fire Fighters*, and with the 1997 and later editions of NFPA 1981, *Standard on Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for the Fire Service*.

1.3.1.6 This standard shall also apply to open-circuit SCBA that were certified as compliant by an independent third-party certification organization and is equipped with SCBA-integrated PASS, also certified as compliant with the 1998 edition of NFPA 1982, *Standard on Personal Alert Safety Systems (PASS)*, as applicable.

1.3.1.7 Only the requirements of Section 4.3 shall apply to any open-circuit SCBA that were confirmed by the SCBA manufacturer as meeting the requirements of the 1981 edition of NFPA 1981, *Standard on Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for Fire Fighters*, or NFPA 19B, *Standard on Respiratory Protective Equipment for Firefighters*.

1.3.1.8 Only the requirements of Section 4.3 shall apply to any open-circuit SCBA that were never confirmed by the SCBA manufacturer or were never certified as meeting the requirements of any edition of NFPA 1981 or NFPA 19B, *Standard on Respiratory Protective Equipment for Firefighters*.

1.3.2 Implementation.

1.3.2.1 When this standard is adopted by an organization or by a jurisdiction, the authority having jurisdiction shall set a date or dates for achieving compliance with the requirements of this standard.

1.3.2.2 The organization or the jurisdiction shall be permitted to establish a phase-in schedule for compliance with specific requirements of this standard.

Chapter 2 Referenced Publications

2.1 General. The documents or portions thereof listed in this chapter are referenced within this standard and shall be considered part of the requirements of this document.

2.2 NFPA Publications. National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269-9101.

NFPA 19B, *Standard on Respiratory Protective Equipment for Firefighters*, 1971 edition.

NFPA 1500, *Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program*, 2002 edition.

NFPA 1901, *Standard for Automotive Fire Apparatus*, 1999 edition.

NFPA 1981, *Standard on Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for Fire Fighters*, 1981 edition.

NFPA 1981, *Standard on Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for Fire Fighters*, 1987 edition.

NFPA 1981, *Standard on Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for Fire Fighters*, 1992 edition.

NFPA 1981, *Standard on Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for the Fire Service*, 1997 edition.

NFPA 1981, *Standard on Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for Fire and Emergency Services*, 2002 edition.

NFPA 1982, *Standard on Personal Alert Safety Systems (PASS)*, 1998 edition.

2.3 Other Publications.

2.3.1 U.S. Government Publications. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

Title 29, *Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 1910.134, 23 April 1998 (29 CFR 1910.134).

Title 29, *Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 1910.156, 18 June 1998 (29 CFR 1910.156).

Chapter 3 Definitions

3.1 General. The definitions contained in this chapter shall apply to the terms used in this standard. Where terms are not included, common usage of the terms shall apply.

3.2 NFPA Official Definitions.

3.2.1* Approved. Acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction.

3.2.2* Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ). The organization, office, or individual responsible for approving equipment, materials, an installation, or a procedure.

3.2.3 Shall. Indicates a mandatory requirement.

3.2.4 Should. Indicates a recommendation or that which is advised but not required.

3.2.5 Standard. A document, the main text of which contains only mandatory provisions using the word “shall” to indicate requirements and which is in a form generally suitable for mandatory reference by another standard or code or for adoption into law. Nonmandatory provisions shall be located in an appendix or annex, footnote, or fine-print note and are not to be considered a part of the requirements of a standard.

3.3 General Definitions.

3.3.1 Atmosphere-Supplying Respirator. A respirator that supplies the respirator user with breathing air from a source

independent of the ambient atmosphere, which includes self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and supplied air respirators (SAR). (See also 3.3.15, *Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus*, and 3.3.17, *Supplied Air Respirator*.)

3.3.2 Care. Procedures for cleaning, decontamination, and storage of protective clothing and equipment.

3.3.3* Combination SCBA/SAR. An atmosphere-supplying respirator that supplies a respirable atmosphere to the user from a combination of two breathing air sources both of which are independent of the ambient environment. [See also 3.3.1, *Atmosphere-Supplying Respirator*, 3.3.15, *Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus*, and 3.3.17, *Supplied Air Respirator (SAR)*.]

3.3.4 Component. Any material, part, or subassembly used in the construction of the compliant product.

3.3.5 Contamination/Contaminated. The process by which protective clothing or equipment has been exposed to hazardous materials or biological agents.

3.3.6 Cross Contamination. The transfer of contamination from one item to another or to the environment.

3.3.7 Fully Charged. An SCBA cylinder filled to the SCBA manufacturer’s specified pressure level.

3.3.8 In-Service. Ready for immediate use.

3.3.9 Maintenance. Procedures for inspection, repair, and removal from service of protective clothing and equipment.

3.3.10* Organization. The entity that provides the direct management and supervision for fire and emergency services response personnel.

3.3.11 Rebuild. To clean and examine compliant product thoroughly and make needed repairs and replace components as specified by the manufacturer.

3.3.12 SAR. An abbreviation for supplied air respirator. [See also 3.3.17, *Supplied Air Respirator (SAR)*.]

3.3.13 SCBA. An abbreviation for self-contained breathing apparatus. (See also 3.3.15, *Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus*.)

3.3.14 Selection. The process of determining what protective clothing and equipment (PCE) is necessary for protection of fire and emergency services response personnel from an anticipated specific hazard or other activity, the procurement of the appropriate PCE, and the choice of the proper PCE for a specific hazard or activity at an emergency incident.

3.3.15* Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). An atmosphere-supplying respirator that supplies a respirable atmosphere to the user from a breathing air source that is independent of the ambient environment and designed to be carried by the user. [See also 3.3.1, *Atmosphere-Supplying Respirator*, 3.3.3, *Combination SCBA/SAR*, and 3.3.17, *Supplied Air Respirator (SAR)*.]

3.3.16 Specified Service Life. Time, exposure event, or number of uses to which a compliant product or component is expected to remain functional.

3.3.17* Supplied Air Respirator (SAR). An atmosphere-supplying respirator for which the source of breathing air is not designed to be carried by the user. Also known as an airline respirator. [See also 3.3.1, *Atmosphere-Supplying Respirator*, 3.3.3, *Combination SCBA/SAR*, and 3.3.15, *Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)*.]