

Australian Capital Territory

Corrections Management (Air Contaminant – Respiratory Protection) Policy 2023

Notifiable instrument NI2023–671

made under the

Corrections Management Act 2007, s14 (Corrections policies and operating procedures)

1 Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Corrections Management (Air Contaminant – Respiratory Protection) Policy 2023*.

2 Commencement

This instrument commences on the day after notification.

3 Policy

I make this policy to facilitate the effective and efficient management of corrections services.

4 Revocation

This instrument revokes *Corrections Management (Air Contaminant - Respiratory Protection) Policy 2022* [NI2022–545].

Bruno Aloisi
A/g Commissioner
ACT Corrective Services
30 October 2023

AIR CONTAMINANT – RESPIRATORY PROTECTION POLICY

POLICY NO. D10

ACT CORRECTIVE SERVICES



ACT
Government

Justice and Community Safety

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1 PURPOSE

ACT Corrective Services (ACTCS) is committed to ensuring that staff members have access to suitable Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). In the event of a fire or emergency incident in a correctional centre Compressed Air Breathing Apparatus and smoke hoods provide appropriate respiratory protection for evacuating persons or assisting ACT Fire and Rescue (ACTF&R) response.

This policy provides instructions for the appropriate location, maintenance and training for Compressed Air Breathing Apparatus and smoke hoods.

2 SCOPE

This policy applies to all correctional centres in the ACT.

3 DEFINITIONS

Compressed Air Breathing Apparatus (CABA) Equipment that enables the wearer to work in an atmosphere that would be otherwise hazardous to the person.

Smoke Hoods Equipment that filters air for approximately 15 minutes from activation.

4 PRINCIPLES

- 4.1 ACTCS staff are not trained in offensive firefighting or hazardous material response but may be required to wear CABA equipment to support ACTF&R operations in the Alexander Maconochie Centre.
- 4.2 CABA equipment is to be used in evacuating a low oxygen or toxic environment, assisting ACTF&R or responding to an early-stage fire as identified during training. ACTCS staff are not to use CABA equipment to attempt significant fire suppression or offensive firefighting activities.
- 4.3 The use of Smoke Hoods by staff must only be for preservation of life (self and others) or to exit hazardous environments and not for significant fire response.
- 4.4 The use of other forms of respiratory protection for specialised tasks, e.g. in maintenance or industry activities, must comply with material data safety sheets or the level of inherent risk.

5 COMPRESSED AIR BREATHING APPARATUS (CABA)

- 5.1 Staff will use CABA equipment to self-evacuate and evacuate other staff, visitors and detainees from a low oxygen or toxic environment, to assist an ACTF&R response or to respond to an early-stage, contained fire in accordance with training and operating procedures.
- 5.2 CABA equipment must be located in all buildings where detainees cannot self-evacuate and according to any direction of the Assistant Commissioner Custodial Operations.
- 5.3 CABA equipment must be utilised where necessary by designated CABA teams comprised of two or more officers.
- 5.4 To allow the safe use of CABA equipment, staff must ensure CABA sets are fitted and worn correctly with appropriate sealing of the face mask.
- 5.5 The safety *standard AS/NZS 1715:2009 Respiratory Protective Equipment* states that individuals should be clean shaven around their necks, cheeks and jaw in order to guarantee the formation of a proper seal. ACTCS recommends staff should report for duty sufficiently clean shaven around their neck, cheeks and jaw to facilitate the formation of a secure seal and to protect the health and safety of themselves and others.

6 SMOKE HOODS

- 6.1 Smoke hoods are located in all Officers' Stations.
- 6.2 Smoke hoods must only be used by staff to evacuate self or other from a low oxygen or toxic environment, not for response purposes.

7 INSPECTIONS

- 7.1 The Assistant Director – Fire Protection must coordinate:
 - a. inspections of smoke hoods annually to ensure they are correctly sealed and in-date
 - b. inspections of all CABA sets and support equipment as per the *Equipment Maintenance Agreement* between ACT Corrective Services and ACTF&R
 - c. an annual stocktake and audit of all ACTCS CABA sets and support equipment in consultation with ACTF&R as per the *Equipment Maintenance Agreement*

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- d. liaising with ACTF&R:
 - i. on the maintenance or replacement of CABA equipment.
 - ii. when any CABA equipment requires cleaning or decontamination; and
 - iii. when breathing apparatus cylinders require refilling.

7.2 Supervisors must ensure Compressed Air Breathing Apparatus and smoke hoods are in place as part of the Supervisor Daily Compliance Checklist.

8 TRAINING

- 8.1 The Assistant Commissioner Custodial Operations must ensure that all custodial officers maintain current training in the use of CABA equipment and smoke hoods.
- 8.2 Mandatory training requirements for custodial officers are as follows:
 - a. one (1) full day initial training; and
 - b. one (1) half-day refresher course each year.
- 8.3 CABA equipment must only be used by staff who meet mandatory training requirements.
- 8.4 Staff must only use CABA equipment and smoke hoods in accordance with training.
- 8.5 All training records must be retained by the Organisational Capability Unit in accordance with the Territory Records Act 2002.

9 RELATED DOCUMENTS

- ACTCS Breathing Apparatus Service Check
- Supervisor Daily Compliance Checklist
- Equipment Maintenance Agreement
- [Court Transport Unit - Incident Response CODE RED - Major Fire](#)
- [Code Red \(Fire\)](#) (Alexander Maconochie Centre)

Bruno Aloisi
A/g Commissioner
ACT Corrective Services
30 October 2023

Document details

Criteria	Details
Document title:	<i>Corrections Management (Air Contaminant – Respiratory Protection) Policy 2023</i>
Document owner/approver:	Commissioner, ACT Corrective Services
Date effective:	The day after the notification date
Review date:	Three years after the notification date
Compliance with law:	This policy reflects the requirements of the <i>Corrections Management (Policy Framework) Policy 2020</i>
Responsible officer:	Assistant Commissioner Custodial Operations

Version Control			
Version no.	Date	Description	Author
V3	August 23	Minor revisions regarding facial hair	E Reuben
V2	July-22	First revision	G Rutherford
V1	January-19	First issued	P Cubitt