



FIRE DEPARTMENT

RANDALL'S ISLAND

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10035

MASK SERVICE UNIT
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NIOSH Docket Office
Robert A. Taft Laboratories
M/S C-34
4676 Columbia Parkway
Cincinnati OH 45226
August 20, 1999

Dear Sir,

The New York City Fire Dept. is interested in purchasing 30, 45, and 60 minute carbon fiber cylinders (without the valve) directly from the manufacturer.

I understand that the SCBA is approved as a unit, but each year the FDNY buys only cylinders (with or without valves) from Scott Aviation – this is approved.

FDNY currently has more than 3400 Scott Air-Paks and 14,000 cylinders in use; an annual purchase of new replacement cylinders and SCBA is made at the beginning of each fiscal year. This purchase consists of more than 1100 cylinders, costing the city and taxpayers more that \$1M a year. By purchasing directly from the manufacturer, we can save up to \$500,000 per year.

I am requesting that the pertinent regulation be amended or the FDNY be granted an approval to purchase directly from the cylinder manufacturer.

Reasons:

The cylinder manufacturer adds the 'Scott' label during manufacture and delivers them to Scott;

Scott has no function in a 'cylinder only' purchase other than adding their markup, then shipping to the FDNY;

FDNY is a Scott certified repair center; (cylinder valves repaired and rebuilt);

FDNY has its own Cylinder Requalification Facility – Reg. # D334.

RECEIVED
BY *pm* | DATE *8/23*

I do not feel that the requirement to purchase 'only' from your SCBA manufacturer is valid regarding the FDNY. Safety and SCBA operation is not an issue.

It is my contention that the integrity of the SCBA would not be compromised by the FDNY purchasing directly from the manufacturer.

Respectfully submitted,



Chief of Mask Services