

Dragon, Karen E. (CDC/NIOSH/EID)

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Cc: Chen, Jihong (Jane) (CDC/NIOSH/EID) (CTR)
Subject: 221 - NIOSH Regulatory Agenda for updating 42 CFR Part 84 Comments

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Comments
NIOSH should approve SCBA ensembles to allow for multiple brands of breathing air cylinders to be used. The public sector has a mandate to conserve spending, and the requirement that only the air bottle must be manufactured by the same manufacturer of the air pack creates a financial hardship that does not create any additional safety for the end user. A multitude of air bottles should be approved. This would create competition between manufacturers, and lower the costs. Additionally, Fire Departments at larger incidents could share air bottles when needed.

Common sense, and attention to public demand for service at reasonable cost has made my Department purchase aftermarket air bottles. These bottles are in many ways superior to the OE manufacturer, and cost 1/3 less to purchase.

Andrew DiMizio, Fire Chief, City of Santa Barbara Fire Department