



Frequently Asked Questions Responder PAPR

What is a PAPR (Powered Air Purifying Respirator)?

An Air-Purifying Respirator that uses a motor-blower to force ambient air through filters or cartridges to the facepiece.

What is the benefit of using a PAPR?

PAPR's are ideal for extended wear times in place of APR's (Air-Purifying Respirators) in Non-IDLH environments. The PAPR reduces user fatigue by virtually eliminating breathing resistance. In addition, unlike standard APR respirators, the PAPR creates a cooling Effect that keeps the facepiece from fogging and the user more comfortable.

Can PAPR'S be used to enter an IDLH environment?

No, PAPR's are Air Purifying Respirators and are not approved for use in IDLH Environments. Only SCBA's should be used.

Are PAPR'S positive pressure respirators?

Yes, the continuous flow of filtered ambient air allows PAPR's to maintain a slight positive pressure. However, PAPR's are not pressure demand positive pressure systems like SCBAs.

What are the battery options for the C420 PAPR?

The LiSO₂ battery is a one time use battery with a ten year shelf life and is NIOSH approved with the C420.

A NiMH rechargeable battery with a 4 hour run-time is also available.

Is the C420 PAPR a first responder product only?

No, Industrial users will also be able to use the C420 PAPR. The P100 cartridge is available for HEPA protection and the GME Multi-gas HE filters offer protection against a wide range of industrial gases.

Is the Responder PAPR NIOSH approved?

Yes, the Responder PAPR carries NIOSH approval when used with the Millennium or Ultra Elite Facepieces and Responder, Optifilter XL HE, or PAPR GME Multi-gas HE cartridges.

What NIOSH Approval does the Responder PAPR have?

The C420 PAPR currently has 42 CFR Part 84 for acid gases, ammonia, chlorine, and formaldehyde. MSA has independently tested and passed all live agent testing with the existing Responder Cartridges and we fully expect to obtain a NIOSH CBRN approval. However, since NIOSH is not under the control of MSA, we can not guarantee the granting of any approvals.

Can the Responder PAPR be upgraded to a CBRN PAPR once it passes the NIOSH testing?

Field upgrades to CBRN will simply require a label and new cartridges.

What is MSA doing to make this a smooth transition?

MSA is offering an upgrade program which will allow users to purchase a C420 with the Responder Cartridge now. We will include a coupon in the C420 packaging that users can send in once MSA is granted the NIOSH approval and they will receive updated cartridges and labeling.

How does the Responder PAPR Cartridge differ from the Millennium and Ultra Elite CBRN cartridges?

The cartridges for the Millennium gas mask and the Responder PAPR will be identical, except with different part numbers and approval information.

When does MSA plan on submitting the Responder PAPR to NIOSH for CBRN approval?

MSA will submit our application by the October 30th deadline. We will then be in the lottery to determine the order of testing (we can not guarantee that we will be first).