



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

5/15/84 - Safety Directors

Public Health Service

Centers for Disease Control
National Institute for Occupational
Safety and Health - ALOSH
944 Chestnut Ridge Road
Morgantown, WV 26505-2888

May 9, 1984

RESPIRATOR USERS NOTICE

Robertshaw RAM-5 Combination Self-contained
and Supplied-air Respirator
MSHA/NIOSH Approval Number TC-13F-64

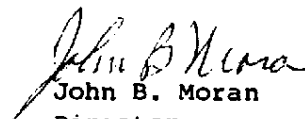
Manufactured by Robertshaw Controls Company
Anaheim, California

Robertshaw Controls Company has voluntarily instituted a recall of the RAM-5 Combination 5-minute Emergency Escape Self-contained Breathing Apparatus and Supplied-air Respirator (MSHA/NIOSH Approval Number TC-13F-64). Robertshaw has advised users known to it of this problem by telephone and a recall notice dated January, 1984. However, Robertshaw Controls Company has only been able to recover or account for 117 out of 700 possible units. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) encourages all users of the RAM-5 to comply with this recall request if they haven't already done so.

During audit testing of two RAM-5 respirators, one unit was found to have a leak in the bulkhead disconnect which connects the hose from the start valve assembly to the hose leading to the mask assembly. Investigation, by Robertshaw, has shown that the leak is caused by inadequate engagement between the internal hose fitting and the bulkhead disconnect. Subsequently, three other RAM-5 respirators have been found to have leakage in this area. This problem will result in shortened service time of the self-contained air supply and could also malfunction when used with supplied air.

In view of the critical nature of this failure, this respirator should not be used until it has been thoroughly tested by an authorized representative or the manufacturer.

All owners of Robertshaw RAM-5 respirators should contact Robertshaw Controls Company (Ray Rateike, 333 North Euclid Way, Anaheim, California 92803, 714-535-8151) for further information.


John B. Moran
Director

Division of Safety Research

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