

TO: All Plant Personnel

FROM: Chris Markerson

DATE: March 16, 1992

Interoffice
Communication

SUBJECT: Breathing Air Inspections

VISTA

EFFECTIVE MARCH 16, 1992, INSPECTION OF ALL BREATHING AIR (cylinders and trailers) IS REQUIRED.

Breathing air inspections are the responsibility of the Shift Supervisor. Although these inspections are the direct responsibility of the Shift Supervisor, inspections can be performed by a temporary Supervisor, the Process Superintendent, or the Safety Director at the discretion of the Shift Supervisor. These inspections shall be performed as follows:

1. When deliveries of breathing air arrive, the Shift Supervisor will inspect each cylinder or trailer (trailers are treated as a single unit) before distribution of the air is allowed.
2. The inspections will be performed using the Gastech 12148, oxygen / combustible meter with the flexible probe as follows:
 - * Obtain a breathing air inspection form (on the clip board in the shift supervisor's office) and fill in the date and inspector information.
 - * Note the cylinder / trailer number on the Breathing Air inspection sheet.
 - * Remove the cylinder cap (not applicable on trailers)
 - * Verify the Gastech is on and properly adjusted to the calibration lines.
 - * "Crack" open the cylinder / main trailer valve to allow a low flow of air from the discharge fitting.
 - * Place the Gastech probe at the discharge point, allowing the meter to collect an air sample. (Be careful not to pressure up the meter, this will damage the internal pump)
 - * Allow approximately 30 seconds for the meter to obtain a sufficient sample and note the O2 reading from the meter on the inspection sheet. The acceptable range is from 19.5% to 23% oxygen.

- * Switch the meter to the combustible scale and note on the inspection sheet if the presence of combustibles is detected. Only a combustible reading of 0 is acceptable.
 - * Allow 30 seconds of ambient air to purge the meter before testing the next cylinder or trailer.
 - * Complete a breathing air inspection tag indicating inspection date and oxygen content, and place on the valve.
 - * Replace the cylinder cap.
 - * If tested acceptable, breathing air can be allowed in the plant.
3. Forward the completed inspection sheet along with the vendor certificate of testing to the Safety Director.
 4. When trailers are received, the Vendor delivery person will leak check the trailer while the Shift Supervisor inspects the air quality.

***** Note *****

Use only the Gastech 1214S with the flexible probe, the rigid probe is a dilution probe and may give an inaccurate reading for this particular test.

Cylinders or trailers which are not tagged with the O2 content noted, are not to be used for breathing air purposes, and are required to be inspected and tagged before connecting to the manifold system or respiratory protection equipment.

If you have any question on this requirement, please let me know.



Chris Markerson
Safety Director

cc: HDG, SJV, REM, AJW, RDF, JJM, CMM, Shift Supervisors,
CDD, RCP, WGC, Bulletin Boards