Filter Self-Rescue Device W-65

The W-65 is a small filter-type device designed to provide respiratory protection against carbon monoxide (CO) gas. CO can result and may build up to dangerous levels as a result of combustion (for example: fires, explosions) underground. The chemical within the device transforms deadly carbon monoxide gas into less harmful carbon dioxide (CO2).

The W-65 is presently the only filter self-rescue device approved for use in metal/nonmetal mines.

The self rescuer will not:
✓ provide oxygen
✓ offer protection against any gases except CO

The self rescuer will:
✓ generate heat in the presence of CO
✓ become uncomfortable, even painful to the wearer
✓ save the wearer’s life

Wearers of the W-65 need to:
✓ be fully trained in all emergency procedures
✓ visually examine the device before going underground
✓ be aware of hazards and adverse health effects
✓ understand the limitations of the device
✓ use the device as a means of ESCAPE only

So that it will be readily accessible in case of an emergency, the W-65 must be:
✓ carried on the worker, or
✓ attached to the mobile equipment the worker is operating, or
✓ located within 25 feet of the worker

A maintenance program needs to provide for:
✓ periodic weighing using a balance or scales that weigh in grams
✓ visual inspections of the entire W-65 to detect any sign that leakage has occurred
✓ an individual record for each device
✓ immediate removal of inadequate devices from service
✓ immediate replacement of discarded devices

REMEMBER: The W-65 is designed to protect the miner during ESCAPE. It will only provide that protection if it is:
✓ readily available,
✓ properly maintained, and
✓ used appropriately

For more details and information on this device, see MSHA IG 2 - “MSA W-65 Filter Self-Rescuer”. You may order this publication by contacting:

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Instructional Materials Department
1301 Airport Road
Beaver, West Virginia 25813-9426

Telephone: 304-256-3257
Fax: 304-256-3368
E-mail: MSHADistributionCenter@msha.gov

For additional information and assistance, contact:
✓ Your local MSHA office
✓ Metal/Nonmetal Mine Safety and Health Office – Arlington, Virginia 202-693-9630
✓ Pittsburgh Safety and Health Technology Center – Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 412-386-6901

* The mention of specific brands and models is for descriptive purposes only and does not imply endorsement by MSHA