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Cc: Accountable Emergency Officers of NHS Acute provider organisations and Ambulance Trusts
Emergency Planning Leads of NHS Acute provider organisations and Ambulance Trusts
NHS England Regional Heads of EPRR

England.epr@nhs.net
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Publications Gateway Reference: 07526

Dear Colleagues

Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) powered respiratory protective suit (PRPS) procurement and redistribution

Further to our letter of 6 March 2017 (Gateway Reference No 06531) updating on the procurement programme for the resupply of PRPS across the NHS, I am pleased to advise that the national re-supply framework has now been agreed. The first replacement suits are now available and some of the national stockpile has already been distributed to trusts with expiring PRPS.

Trusts are required to maintain their current re-certification programme for existing PRPS, up to and including year nine, to ensure each suit in operation is utilised to its full extent.

Finalising framework negotiations and upcoming production schedules means there will be some adjustments to the current distribution of suits. To ensure the maximum decontamination capability is maintained across the NHS in England, the number of operational PRPS at:

- acute trusts will be a minimum of 12 until Summer 2018, then rising to 24.
- major trauma centres will hold a minimum of 20 during this same time period.

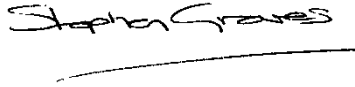
To support resilience in the decontamination capability, NHS ambulance service trusts will be asked to provide contingency supply from their stocks for rapid mobilisation to support any active deployment of PRPS at an acute trust.

This will enable immediate decontamination capability across the NHS in England.

During the intervening period we anticipate that your suit sizes will be a like for like replacement. However if you wish to request alternate sizes, please complete the request form enclosed at Appendix One and return to england.prps@nhs.net by 31 January 2018. Also enclosed is a poster for display in areas of your organisation which receive deliveries.

Please do not hesitate to contact your local NHS England EPRR lead if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Groves". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

Stephen Groves
National Head of EPRR

Appendix One

PRPS Replacement Programme - Sizing Variation Request Form

Complete the sizing variation form and return to England.PRPS@NHS.net by the end of January 2018. We will endeavour to deliver the requested sizes – however, please be aware that there is a four month lead time for production.

Trust			
Hospital			
Address			
Completed by	Name	Sign	Date

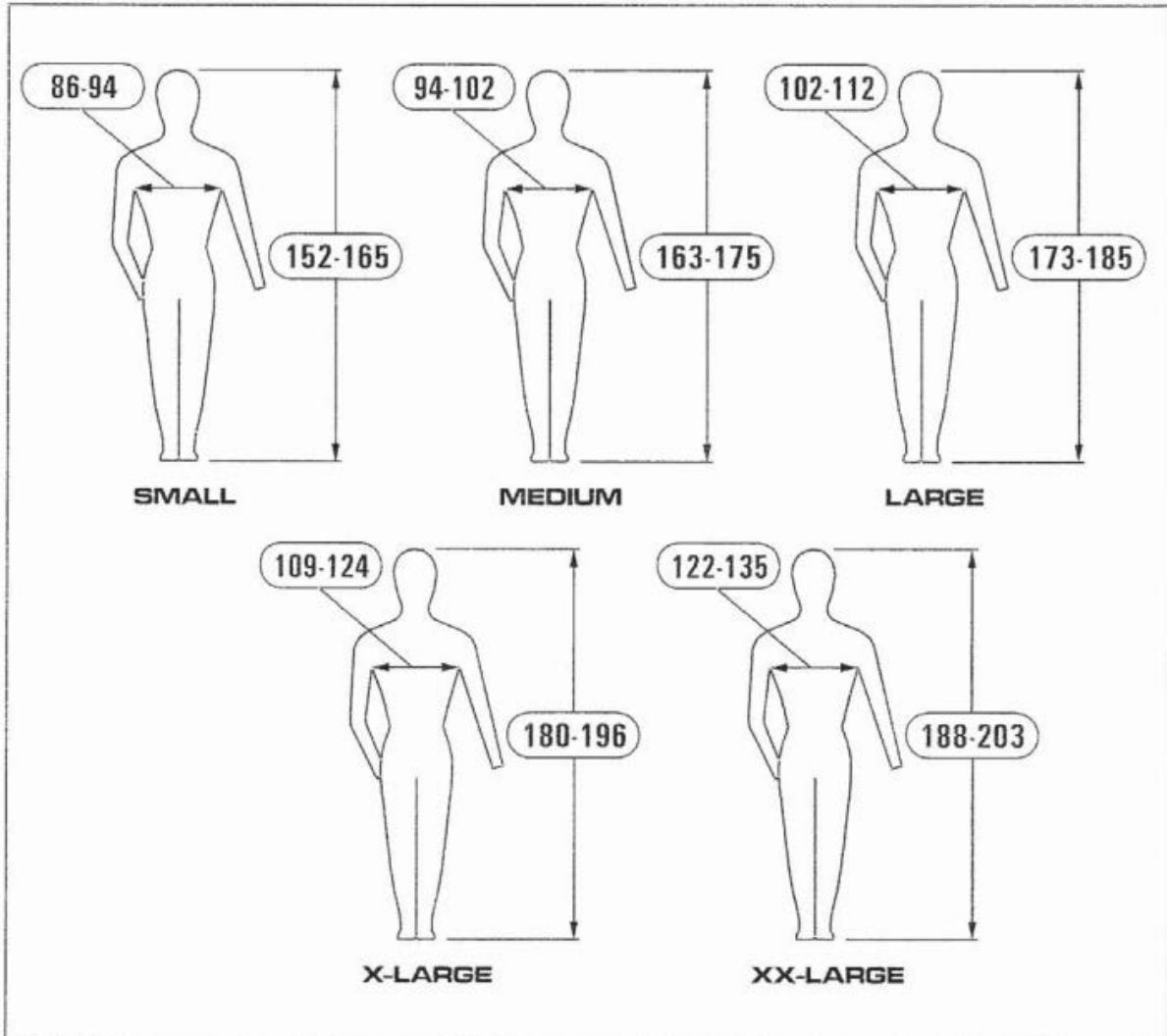
Sizes Requested				
Small	Medium	Large	Extra Large	Extra Extra Large

Additional Comments

Appendix One (continued)

PRPS Replacement Programme - Sizing Variation Request Form

The following pictograms designate the range of height & chest sizes suitable for specific sizes of suit, check your body measurements and select the correct size of suit. Body measurements are given in cms (inches).



Size	Boot size	Body Height	Chest Girth
S	6	152 – 165 (5'0" – 5'5")	86 – 94 (34" – 37")
M	8	163 – 175 (5'4" – 5'9")	94 – 102 (37" – 40")
L	10	173 – 185 (5'8" – 6'1")	102 – 112 (40" – 44")
XL	12	180 – 196 (5'11" – 6'5")	109 – 124 (43" – 49")
XXL	14	188 – 203 (6'2" – 6'8")	122 – 135 (48" – 53")

Appendix Two - Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is PRPS?

The Respirax Powered Respirator Protective Suit (PRPS) is intended for use by emergency response personnel after a chemical, biological or radiological contamination incident.

The suit is manufactured from Tychem®TK., a high-performance chemical protective clothing material developed by DuPont for protection against gaseous, liquid and solid chemicals.

The suit is fitted with a 3M Jupiter™ Air Filter Unit (AFU). The AFU is battery powered and worn on a waist belt within the suit. The AFU draws air through externally mounted filters and feeds it through a breathing tube into the head space. A remote warning and indicator device, featuring three coloured lights, is mounted at chin level in the head space and connected to the AFU via a cable.

During operational use the AFU must be fitted with 3M TH3 A2B2E2K2P R filters, enhanced to provide additional protection against chemical and biological warfare agents (3M Ref. JFR-85-CE). The filters, when used in conjunction with the 3M Jupiter™ AFU as part of an approved system, conform to the European standard EN12941:1998.

Garment features include:

- Large semi-rigid visor bonded to the suit.
- Four exhalation valves fitted to the rear of the suit.
- Integral safety boots with steel toe-caps and mid-soles.
- Dual glove system consisting of a laminated inner glove having good chemical resistance (Kemblok™) bonded to an outer Neoprene glove affording protection against mechanical risks as well as having some degree of chemical resistance. The gloves are fitted to the suit by means of the Respirax locking cone and grommet system.
- Re-hydration facility
- Exterior attachment point for distress signal unit

The PRPS is designed as a limited-use garment, ie designed to be worn until chemical contamination has occurred and disposal is required.

Appendix Two - Frequently Asked Questions

2. Who makes PRPS?

PRPS is made by:

RESPIREX INTERNATIONAL LTD,
Unit F Kingsfield Business Centre,
Philanthropic Road,
Redhill,
Surrey.
RH1 4DP

3. What is the current position regarding the PRPS replacement programme?

The PRPS replacement programme is coordinated by the Home Office and Department of Health, and is being run in conjunction with other emergency services that use PRPS.

4. Have orders been placed by DH?

Yes, and the distribution programme has now commenced.

5. When can I expect my new suits?

Deliveries are being planned to coincide with the 10-year end of life date plus 12 weeks.

6. Have Respirex extended the life of the suit?

Yes, Respirex have given a 12-week extension to the end of life date.

7. Do we need to continue servicing our current suits?

Yes, replacements are only being made at the end of the 10-year end of life date plus 12 weeks.

8. Will we receive all our suits in one delivery?

No, deliveries are being planned to coincide with the 10-year end of life date plus 12 weeks based on the unified data supplied to NHS England by Trusts in 2016. This also includes the size profile.

9. Will I get notified of a delivery?

Yes, NHS Supply Chain will email the "primary contact" to confirm delivery date (these primary contact details were confirmed by you during the summer of 2017).

Appendix Two - Frequently Asked Questions

10. Will we get all our expiring suits replaced?

Yes, all will be replaced. However due to production capacity we may have to phase this.

Acute trusts' operational PRPS stock will be at least 12 until the summer of 2018. All major trauma centres will be maintained with a minimum of 20 operational suits during this time.

11. Will we be left without a capability?

No, we will spread the numbers evenly to reduce the impact, ensuring that all trusts have a capability. Local arrangements for support may be required – this may include reciprocal arrangements with NHS ambulance services or neighbouring trusts.

12. Is the new suit different form the current one?

No the new suit is identical and the training is unchanged.

13. Is the servicing the same?

No, Respirex have changed the way the suit is serviced:

The current PRPS:

- 0-5 years no servicing
- End of years 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9 a re-certification/service is required until the suit reaches 10 years old. Filters are currently changed at the 5-year point.

New 2017 onwards PRPS:

- The PRPS system is designed to have a projected shelf life of ten years. This figure is dependent on several factors including correct storage conditions, the JFR 85 CE filters being replaced after 4/5/6 years and a minimum of 3 validation service inspections spread over the life of the product.
- Each validation service will consist of a full inspection of all component parts of the suit and AFU as set out by the respective original equipment manufacturers - including motor start, head up display function and EN464 inflation test - this work will always be carried out by a fully trained and OEM certificated service engineer.
- The service will use the 3rd/3rd/3rd rotational arrangement. Each suit box will carry a Service Record Label. 2. Respirex will use a security sticker to ensure bona fide validation and include current and future status.
- Service 1 will be conducted during years 1-3
- Service 2 will be conducted during years 4-6 and include the filter change
- Service 3 will be conducted during years 7-9

Appendix Two - Frequently Asked Questions

The intention is still to provide the suit as a cost free item to trusts on this occasion – with the servicing covered for the full 10 year period. This will be the final central purchase of PRPS for the NHS.

14. How is the suit stored?

To prevent damage occurring during storage the system is supplied in a plastic container. Suits should always be stored in a clean and dry condition at ambient temperature. If being stored for long periods of time the suits should be kept out of direct sunlight.

15. How should uncontaminated PRPS be disposed of?

These suits include electrical elements which fall under the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive and should be disposed of accordingly.

Battery Pack	Recycled through manufacturer WEEE scheme
Powered Respirator	Recycled through manufacturer WEEE scheme
Suit Material (including visor)	Shredded - Whilst the exact composition of the fabric is confidential to the manufacturer, it is known that Tychem TK. consists of polymers which do not contain halogens in their structural formula. After use, Tychem TK. can either be incinerated without harm to the environment, or can be buried in a responsible manner. It is important to note that the nature of any chemical contamination on the garment should be taken into account when deciding on the best method of disposal.
Hazmax Boots	Boot uppers (including steel toecap); materials recycled for use in general purpose boots
Case, hard hat, gloves, socks, hydration pack, hazbag and document wallet	Re-used where possible.

Trusts can dispose of the suits following the above guidelines and ensuring the serial number is cut out and returned to the manufacturer for the records to be updated. The manufacturer and other waste contractors can also provide this service at a cost.

16. What are the sizes available?

The following pictograms designate the range of height & chest sizes suitable for specific sizes of PRPS, check your body measurements and select the correct size of suit. Body measurements in cm (inch).

PRPS

Powered Respiratory Protection Suit



What to do if you receive a delivery of boxes containing PRPS

1. Accept the delivery
2. Do not open the box or break the seal, there is a significant re-sealing cost and renders the suit unusable until rectified
3. Make contact with your local representative using the details below
4. Store in a secure dry location

This is emergency decontamination Personal Protective Equipment purchased for your organisation by the Department of Health

For further information contact either your local contact or the national programme team England.PRPS@nhs.net

Local contact information