



Emergency Breathing System (EBS) Cleaning Guidance Note

The following guidance note has been prepared based on the initial guidance issued by HSE UK in 2003 covering the cleaning and labelling of EBS equipment.

Accepting and complying with this advice does not remove the responsibility of the company maintaining this equipment to ensure their duty of care for delegates using this equipment. Therefore hazards need to be identified, and risks assessed to ensure that delegate safety and wellbeing is being maintained at all times.

Whilst this guidance refers to the UK, other countries may require additional tests. It is therefore the responsibility of the Training Provider to seek medical advice from relevant medical authorities to ascertain what tests need to be carried out. EBS equipment testing must be documented and recorded in the risk assessment as a control measure. In addition, records of testing would need to be maintained.

Risk assessments will be checked during OPITO audits.

Laboratory Checks

- 1) Checks are to be performed by a recognised laboratory, Training Providers must seek specialist advice to assess the risks of bacteria that may be prevalent in their own geographical area and conduct appropriate tests accordingly.
- 2) Components to be tested are: mouth piece, hose and counterlung, as close to the internal tubing as possible.
- 3) Swab testing i.e. whole unit sealed and packaged before sending to laboratory or swabs taken by the training centre by a person competent in swab taking.

Record keeping

- 1) Each EBS component to be tested (mouth piece, hose and counterlung) should be individually marked. Individual delegate's usage to be recorded to enable traceability.
- 2) Laboratory test certificate/report should clearly indicate the results from each EBS component tested. Once the EBS components are returned from the laboratory, the method of assembly should ensure that each component is linked back.
- 3) EBS components of the same identification number/code should always be used in the same EBS unit to ensure traceability.