

PDE:HQ



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION IV  
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 1000  
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76012

August 8, 1979

Docket No. 40-8027

Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corporation  
ATTN: Mr. W. J. Shelley, Director  
Regulation and Control  
Kerr-McGee Center  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73125

Gentlemen:

The enclosed Circular No. 79-15, is forwarded to you for information. If there are any questions related to your understanding of the suggested actions, please notify NIOSH at the telephone number listed in the enclosure to the circular.

Sincerely,

*K. V. Seyfrit*  
Karl V. Seyfrit  
Director

Enclosures:

- 1. IE Circular No. 79-15
- 2. Listing of IE Circulars  
Issued in the Last  
Six Months

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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

IE Circular No. 79-15  
Date: August 8, 1979  
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~~BURSTING OF HIGH PRESSURE HOSE AND MALFUNCTION OF RELIEF VALVE AND~~  
~~"O"-RING IN CERTAIN SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS~~

~~Description of Circumstances:~~

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has been informed by mailgram (copy enclosed) from the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of occurrences of bursting of the high-pressure hose assembly, and malfunction of the relief valve and of the "O"-ring in the main line assembly of the SurvivAir Mark I self-contained breathing apparatus. Any one of these failures would result in immediate loss of air supply to a user.

Licensees who use the SurvivAir Mark I SCBA should:

1. Discontinue use of the apparatus until the units have been inspected by the manufacturer and all necessary repairs or replacements have been made.
2. Contact the manufacturer or supplier of the equipment for instructions on arranging for inspection and repair.

No written response to this circular is required. If you require additional information regarding this subject, please contact the office specified in the enclosed mailgram.

Enclosure:  
Mailgram

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M A I L G R A M

RESPIRATOR USERS WARNING

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) advises workers to discontinue using the SurvivAir Mark I self-contained breathing apparatus until the units have been inspected by the manufacturer and all necessary repairs or replacements have been made.

NIOSH has learned that the high pressure hose assembly installed by the manufacturer in some of these respirators is not the assembly originally tested and approved by NIOSH for this respirator. In addition, reports from two fire departments indicate the following serious malfunctions have occurred recently during use:

1. Bursting of the high pressure hose assembly (part no. 960627).
2. Malfunction of the relief valve (part no. 912520).
3. Malfunction of the O-ring in the main line assembly (part no. 824193).

Any one of these failures would result in immediate loss of air supply to the user.

In response to a NIOSH request, SurvivAir has agreed to discontinue sale and distribution of the respirators until all three problems are corrected. When NIOSH has determined that the three problems have been corrected, you will be advised that the stop sales request has been withdrawn.

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M A I L G R A M

SurvivAir has also agreed to inspect all units in the field and make necessary repairs in accordance with a plan to be approved by NIOSH. In the meantime, owners of SurvivAir Mark I self-contained breathing apparatus should contact the manufacturer or supplier for further instructions. For further information contact NIOSH, Division of Safety Research, 944 Chestnut Ridge Road, Morgantown, West Virginia 26505. Telephone: (304) 599-7595

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LISTING OF IE CIRCULARS ISSUED IN  
LAST SIX MONTHS

Circular No.	Subject	Date of Issue	Issued To
79-03	Inadequate Guard Training - Qualification and Falsified Training Records	2/23/79	All Holders of and applicants for Special Nuclear Material Licenses in Safeguards Group I
79-04	Loose Locking Nut On Limitorque Valve Operators	3/16/79	All Holders of Reactor Operating License (OL) or Construction Permits (CP)
79-05	Moisture Leakage in Stranded Wire Conductors	3/20/79	All Holders of Reactor Operating License (OL) or Construction Permits (CP)
79-06	Failure to Use Syringe and Battle Shields in Nuclear Medicine	4/19/79	All Holders of Medical Licensees except Teletherapy Licensees
79-07	Unexpected Speed Increase of Reactor Recirculation MG Set Resulted in Reactor Power Increase	5/2/79	All Holders of BWR Operating Licenses (OLs) or Construction Permits (CPs)
79-08	Attempted Extortion - Low Enriched Uranium	5/18/79	All Fuel Facilities and Reactors Licensed by NRC
79-09	Occurrences of Split or Punctured Regulator Diaphragms in Certain Self Contained Breathing Apparatus	6/22/79	All Materials Priority I, Fuel Cycle and Operating Reactor Licenses (OL)
79-10	Pipefittings Manufactured from Unacceptable Material	6/26/79	All Power Reactor Licensees with a Construction Permit and/or Operating License (OL)
79-11	Design/Construction Interface Problem	6/27/79	All Holders of and Applicants for Power Reactor Construction Permits (CP)

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|-------|---|---------|---|
| 79-12 | Potential Diesel Generator Turbocharger Problem     | 6/28/79 | All Power Reactor Licensee with a Construction Permit (CP) and/or Operating License (OL)            |
| 79-13 | Replacement of Diesel Fire Pump Starting Contactors | 7/13/79 | All Power Reactor Licensee with a Construction Permit (CP) and/or Operating License (OL)            |
| 79-14 | Unauthorized Procurement and Distribution of XE-133 | 7/13/79 | All Medical Licensees Except Teletherapy Medical Licensees and to all Radiopharmaceutical Suppliers |

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