

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR FUMIGATION

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1. Purpose

The purpose of this guide is to provide a single reference point and awareness of the PPE required to ensure the safety of persons performing fumigations with A-Gas Rural supplied products.

2. Scope

This guide covers the PPE required for the use of each product, the care and maintenance of fumigation PPE and the cleaning and storage requirements of PPE items.

3. Definitions

PPE = Personal Protective Equipment, which includes but is not limited to: eye protection, safety footwear, respiratory masks, SCBA, chemical suits, gloves and PVC aprons.

SCBA = Self Contained Breathing Apparatus – Oxygen supplied respiratory protection.

SDS = Safety Data Sheets

4. Task Specific Requirements

TASK	REQUIRED PPE
Methyl Bromide Fumigations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Full face respirator mask – in case of equipment leak or gas escape from chamber ▶ Fumiscope Monitor – to detect fumigant levels have reached required exposure standards before chambers are vented and exclusion zones are removed ▶ SCBA – on hand for emergencies ▶ Long sleeve, loose fitting clothing – to protect from immediate skin contact by gas escape that doesn't trap product against the skin
Profume Fumigations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ SCBA – for administering Profume and monitoring fumigant levels ▶ sf-explore IR Monitor – to detect when fumigant levels have reached required exposure standards, monitor for fumigant escape during fumigation interval ▶ Long sleeve, loose fitting clothing – to protect from immediate skin contact by gas escape that doesn't trap product against the skin
Rural Inline Fumigation (liquid product)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Full face respirator mask – in case of fume escape from application process or escape from greenhouse or plastic row covering ▶ Cotton overalls, pvc or neoprene gloves and pvc apron – in case of product spill or escape from drum or application rig ▶ Non-absorbent protective footwear – in case of product spill or escape from a drum or application rig ▶ Clean water on hand – to immediately wash product from skin in the event of accidental contact.
C-35 & C60 Soil Fumigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Full cover cotton overalls and washable hat – to protect against minor splashes and spray ▶ PVC apron – to protect against splashes and spills when connecting and changing cylinders ▶ Elbow length neoprene gloves and chemical resistant footwear – to protect against splashes and spills when connecting and changing cylinders ▶ Full face respirator mask – to protect against fume exposure ▶ Clean water on hand – to immediately wash product from skin in the event of accidental contact.

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5. PPE Care and Maintenance

EQUIPMENT	MAINTENANCE REQUIRED
Respirator Mask	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Inspect the respirator before and after each use and during cleaning ▶ Replace all parts that are cracked, torn, broken, missing or worn ▶ Inspect for cracked or heavily scratched lenses ▶ Make sure facepiece edges are not rippled or distorted ▶ Check head straps for breaks, deterioration of elasticity, or fraying edges. ▶ Check the inhalation/exhalation valve and seat are free of dust particles or dirt that may cause poor seal or reduce efficiency ▶ Ensure the filter is screwed in properly, and there is no cross threading ▶ Check the filter housing for cracks or dents ▶ Filter cartridges should be replaced as per exposure requirements
SCBA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ For the facepiece – as required for ‘Full face respirator mask’ ▶ For the Regulator – check the regulator, breathing tube threads, pressure gauge, and bypass and mainline valves for impact damage ▶ Store with the cylinder valve completely closed ▶ Bleed off air remaining in the regulator after each use, following manufacturer’s instructions ▶ For the Breathing tube – Stretch the breathing tube and check for cracks, tears and punctures ▶ Check gaskets ▶ Check clamps and rings to ensure they are tight, properly located, not dented and excessively corroded ▶ For the High Pressure hose – check the hose for cuts, bubbles and abrasions ▶ Check the fitting between the high pressure hose and the regulator for damage ▶ For the Cylinder – Ensure cylinders have been tested in accordance with Australian Standard Selection, Care and Use of Respirators ▶ Check cylinders for impact damage
Safety Glasses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Ensure your safety glasses fit properly. Eye size, bridge size and temple length all vary ▶ Wear safety glasses so that the temples and arms fit comfortably over the ears. The frames should be as close to the face as possible and be adequately supported by the bridge of the nose ▶ Scratches impair vision and can weaken lenses. Replace scratched, pitted, broken, bent or ill-fitting glasses. Damaged glasses interfere with vision and do not provide protection ▶ Store safety glasses and face shields in a clean, dry place where they cannot fall or be stepped on
Safety Footwear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Fit – Boots and shoes should have ample toe room (toes should be about 12.5mm from the front) ▶ Boots or shoes should fit snugly around the heel and/or ankle ▶ A steel toe or cap should cover the whole length of the toes from tips to beyond the natural bend of the foot. If the toe cap cuts into the foot, either the size or the style is incorrect. ▶ High cut boots provide support against ankle injury ▶ Inspect footwear regularly for damage ▶ Replace worn or defective footwear

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Gloves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Ensure gloves fit properly ▶ Ensure all exposed skin is covered by the gloves ▶ Do not use worn or torn gloves ▶ Inspect and test gloves before using ▶ Choose gloves that meet the needs of the specific task involved (such as flexibility, dexterity, chemical resistance, etc.)
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6. Cleaning and Storage

EQUIPMENT	CLEANING AND STORAGE
Respirator Mask	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Do not clean with solvents ▶ Wash with a mild detergent or a combination of detergent and disinfectant. Use a soft brush and warm water (49°C – 60°C) ▶ Remove all dirt ▶ Rinse with clean water to remove all excess detergent or disinfectant that can cause skin irritation or dermatitis ▶ When not in use, store the respirator so as to protect it from dust, sunlight, heat, extreme cold, excessive moisture, and chemicals ▶ Only trained and qualified persons should repair damaged respirator masks ▶ Check for distortion caused by improper storage
SCBA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ For the facepiece – as required for ‘Full face respirator mask’ ▶ Clean with warm water or soapy water ▶ Wash the breathing tube separately and allow to air dry ▶ Wipe all parts with a damp cloth ▶ Wipe dry with a clean cloth
Safety Glasses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Safety glasses should be cleaned daily, and as required to maintain clear vision, and face shields should be cleaned before and after each use. Avoid rough handling that can scratch lenses
Safety Footwear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Check soles of footwear are contaminant free before entering areas where protection is not required
Gloves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Do not store contaminated or dirty gloves with other PPE ▶ If cloth glove/glove components become contaminated with hazardous substances, remove and dispose of immediately

7. References

A-Gas Rural Product Safety Data Sheets
 Australian WHS/OHS Acts and Regulations