

BS EN 12021:2014

Incorporating corrigenda October 2014, November 2014 and March 2026



BSI Standards Publication

Respiratory equipment — Compressed gases for breathing apparatus

National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN 12021:2014. It supersedes BS EN 12021:1999, which is withdrawn. It partially supersedes BS 8478:2011, as the test methods in Clause 5 specified in BS 8478:2011 have been retained.

This European standard specifies that ‘compressed gas for breathing shall not contain contaminants at a concentration which can cause toxic or harmful effects’ and that ‘all contaminants shall be kept to as low a level as possible’. In the opinion of the UK committee, contaminants that are not listed in this standard may also be present for various reasons; including leakage of ambient contaminants into the face mask. In some cases the effects of these contaminants could be additive or even considerably greater than the sum of their individual effects. In addition, an individual’s susceptibility to similar chemicals can vary significantly.

In regards to the UK implementation of this standard, the levels of contaminants specified in the tables should be used, independent of any National Workplace Exposure Limit (WEL). For those contaminants that are not listed in the tables in this standard, the level should not be greater than one tenth of the relevant time (8 h) weighted average Workplace Exposure Limit (WEL).

The UK National WEL for substances hazardous to health are published by the Health and Safety Executive and can be found in the publication, Workplace Exposure limits (EH40).

To ensure consistency in the application of this standard and in the analysis of the gases and any contaminants, a National Annex is included which includes the test methods previously specified in BS 8478.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee PH/4/7, Underwater breathing apparatus.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its committee manager.

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