DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY
HEADQUARTERS
8725 JOHN J. KINGMAN ROAD, SUITE 2533
FORT BELVOIR, VIRGINIA 22060-6221

IN REPLY
REFER TO

J-37

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER, DEFENSE REUTILIZATION AND MARKETING SERVICE

SUBJECT: Gas Masks

Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) and military services personnel recently discovered that certain Navy ND Mark V gas masks, with National Stock Numbers (NSNs) H-4240-01-268-9732 and 4240-00-268-9732, made available to other Federal, state, and local entities from 1995 through 2000, may no longer be suitable or effective for their originally intended purposes and are not approved by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). The masks require NIOSH approval if they are used by non-military personnel. Additionally, as a normal part of a respiratory protection program, fit testing the mask to the user is also required. Without the NIOSH certification and the personal fit testing, these masks may not provide the user the necessary or adequate protection.

In light of these concerns, I advise you to notify in writing all parties who can be identified as recipients of these masks (with the NSNs listed above) to take them out of service and dispose of the masks properly. This should include disposal of any canisters in accordance with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requirements. You should also make more general notification in trade journals or other publications (including the DRMS RTD website) that can reasonably be expected to provide proper notice to recipients of these masks and suspend release of masks with these NSNs pending further review by the DoD Disposal Policy Working Group. In the alternative, you should advise recipients who wish to retain these masks to have such masks received with these NSNs tested and approved by NIOSH.

A sample notice provision is attached. My staff is ready to assist you with certain initial recipient names and addresses, as well as other information. If you have any questions, please call Carolyn Bridgeman at (703) 767-1529.

FREDERICK N. BAILLIE
Executive Director
Distribution and Reutilization Policy

Attachment

Federal Recycling Program Printed on Recycled Paper

DRMS NOTES

The following notice applies to all R/T/D/S customers. This property may be issued to Reutilization customers, however, it excludes the 12 Special Programs.

The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) recently discovered that certain Navy ND Mark V gas masks, with National Stock Numbers (NSNs) H-4240-1-268-9732 and 4240-00-268-9732, made available to other Federal, State, and local entities from 1995 through 2000, may no longer be suitable or effective for their originally intended purposes and are not approved by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). The masks require NIOSH approval if they are used by non-military personnel. Additionally, as a normal part of a respiratory protection program, fit testing the mask is also required.

Without the NIOSH certification and the personal fit testing, these masks may not provide the user the necessary or adquate protection. There are two types of fit tests:

- Qualitative - easily done; personal; "measures" the face; a tester using smoke, banana oil, etc. has the user breathe. It is not entirely reliable. The wearer determines the fit.
- Quantitative - more complicated; impersonal; a machine tests the fit under pressure; measures the material outside the mask and inside the mask. It is extremely reliable, but expensive.

DLA, therefore, advises that you take any gas masks with the NSNs listed above, out of service and dispose of them properly. This should include disposal of any canisters in accordance with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requirements. In the alternative, if you wish to retain these masks for use, you should have such masks received with these NSNs tested and approved by NIOSH. These masks may cause injury or death in a life threatening situation. They:

- are old;
- are not NIOSH approved for general industry use; and
- were specifically designed for military use.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Roy Sprunger at (269) 961- 7006 or Roy.Sprunger@mail.drms.dla.mil