



RPE Training

Enhanced cleaning and handling of RPE sets

HMPPS National Fire Safety Team

VERSION CONTROL:

| Version | Date | Notes |
|---------|------------|-------------|
| 1 | 09/03/2020 | First Issue |
| 2 | 18/03/2020 | Revision |
| 3 | 18/06/2020 | Revision |

PURPOSE:

To provide a repeatable methodology for the cleaning and storage of **RPE training sets** prior to use. This guidance also provides details on safe handling procedures to be applied post RPE 'live' set use.

BACKGROUND:

Hood 15 respiratory protective equipment (RPE) is an essential component of Cell Fire Response and designed to protect staff from harmful fire smoke and gases. RPE training sets are used by 'learners' to simulate the wearing of 'live' RPE sets whilst undertaking practical cell fire scenarios. It is important for hygiene purposes that training sets are cleaned appropriately before use.



Figure 1: RPE training set

RPE TRAINING SETS:

Delegates will be allocated a 'personal use' training set for the duration of the RPE training session. Prior to individual allocation, the RPE training set must be checked to ensure that it has been cleaned and not been used within the previous **72 hours** (See Annex A - Record of RPE Training Set Cleaning and Use). Each RPE set will be given its own unique identification code which can be cross referenced to a cleaning and storage record. The identification code should be permanently marked in a visible position on the set and corresponding bandolier case.

CLEANING PROCEDURE:

SUMMARY:

Pre-Clean > Train > Post-Clean > Air dry and store (Minimum of 72 hours)

PRE-USE:

The RPE Trainer will demonstrate to delegates how to clean the RPE training set and bandolier case following the cleaning instructions set out below:

STEP:

1. The cleaning area to be well ventilated with air movement where possible (E.g. outside or with the opening of doors and windows);
2. Before cleaning commences it is essential that you are working on a clean surface and that you wear nitrile disposable gloves;
3. Remove the RPE training set from the 'bandolier' carry case;

4. Using alcohol- based (60% or greater) virucidal disinfectant wipes, wipe **ALL** internal surfaces and components of the set, paying attention to the sealing surface of the oral nasal mask and open ports, self-adjusting harness, neck seal and visor;
PHE recommend the use of alcohol-based (60% or greater) to kill the COVID-19 virus



Figure 2: Wiping of internal visor



Figure 3: Wiping of the neck seal



Figure 4: Wiping of the open ports



Figure 5: Cleaning of oral nasal mask

5. Then, wipe **ALL** exterior surfaces and components of the RPE set, ensuring that extra attention is given to the speech device, underside of the 'reservoir bag', and other obscured areas;



Figure 6: Wiping of KO2 Generator packs



Figure 7: Wiping of visor

6. Wipe ALL interior parts of the 'bandolier' carry case including the plastic casing, underside of the lid, Velcro seal and bag, silver strip, red bungs and firing pin;
7. Then, wipe ALL exterior sides of the carry case including the lid;
8. Dispose of gloves and wipes in clinical waste bag;
9. Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Alternately, use anti-bacterial disinfectant wipes to clean hands (where hand washing is not immediately available). Do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean;
10. Delegates will then undertake the cleaning of their own training sets following the procedure demonstrated by the trainer.

POST USE:

The RPE Trainer will demonstrate to delegates how to clean the RPE training set and bandolier case prior to use following the cleaning instructions set out below:

STEP:

1. The cleaning area to be well ventilated with air movement where possible (E.g. outside or with the opening of doors and windows);
2. Before cleaning commences it is essential that you are working on a clean surface and that you wear coveralls or gauntlet gloves to protect bare arms;
3. Using Chlorine/ virucidal detergent blocks (either TitanChlor or alternative supplied) the Trainer will prepare a mix of Chlorine solution at 1000ppm at dilution rates specified on the product tub;
This disinfectant will kill the Coronavirus and prevent the viral infection passing from one user to another
4. Immerse a micro-fibre cleaning cloth into the solution so that it is damp to wet;
5. Then, wipe **ALL** internal surfaces and components of the set, paying attention to the sealing surface of the oral nasal mask and open ports, self-adjusting harness, neck seal and visor (see Figures 2, 3, 4 & 5);
6. Then, wipe **ALL** exterior surfaces and components of the RPE set, ensuring that extra attention is given to the speech device, underside of the 'reservoir bag', and other obscured areas (see Figures 6 & 7);
7. Wipe **ALL** interior parts of the 'bandolier' carry case including the plastic casing, underside of the lid, Velcro seal and bag, silver strip, red bungs and firing pin;
8. Then, wipe **ALL** exterior sides of the carry case including the lid;
9. Delegates will then clean their own training sets and bandolier case following the same cleaning procures. This action will be observed by the RPE trainer;
10. The RPE Trainer will complete the record of 'cleaning and storage' ensuring the date and time the set was cleaned and its minimum time before re-use e.g. a minimum of 72 hours after cleaning is recorded. **See Annex A - Record of RPE Training Set Post Clean and Use;**
11. The RPE Trainer will ensure cleaned RPE training sets are stored outside of the bandolier case in such a way (e.g upside down), so that the inner part of the set can naturally ventilate to atmosphere. The lid of the cleaned bandolier case should be left open to allow it to naturally ventilate to atmosphere;
12. RPE training sets and bandolier cases should be stored in a secure area for a **minimum of 72 hours;**
13. The sets should be placed into the bandolier case and an anti-tamper seal applied e.g. property box seal through lid and case eyelets. Where it is found that the tamper seal has

been broken, the set should be 'deep cleaned' with a further 72 hour quarantine period applied;

14. Gloves and wipes should be disposed of in a clinical waste bag and excess chlorine solution be carefully discarded down a sewer drain (e.g. toilet) and not a storm drain, soakaway or septic tank;
15. Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Alternately, use anti-bacterial disinfectant wipes to clean hands (where hand washing is not immediately available). Do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean.

RPE TRAINERS:

RPE trainers should set aside 'personal use' sets which should be cleaned in accordance with the advice given above.

HANDLING OF USED 'LIVE' RPE SETS:

1. Used sets should be double bagged and sealed post use;
2. Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Alternately, use anti-bacterial disinfectant wipes to clean hands. Do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean;
3. Sets prepared for collection by prison Health & Safety team. Wash or clean hands post handling of equipment.

SUPPORT:

Further information on the cleaning of RPE training sets can be obtained from the HQ National Fire Team:

Email - NationalFireSafetyTeam@justice.gov.uk

Phone- 07525 043 779 & 07773 056 241

FURTHER GUIDANCE & SUPPORT DOCUMENTS:

Annex A - Record of RPE Set Cleaning and Use

SEMMCO PICTORIAL GUIDE TO CLEANING RPE SETS

EDM for RPE Practical Training Scenarios

NHS guidance: 'How to wash your hands'

LFB Interim guidance for the cleaning of Breathing Apparatus (BA)

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>