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Respiratory protective devices — Human factors —

Part 6: Psycho-physiological effects

*Appareils de protection respiratoire — Facteurs humains —
Partie 6: Effets psycho-physiologiques*



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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [Foreword - Supplementary information](#)

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 94, *Personal safety — Protective clothing and equipment*, Subcommittee SC 15, *Respiratory protective devices*.

ISO/TS 16976 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Respiratory protective devices — Human factors*:

- *Part 1: Metabolic rates and respiratory flow rates*
- *Part 2: Anthropometrics*
- *Part 3: Physiological responses and limitations of oxygen and limitations of carbon dioxide in the breathing environment*
- *Part 4: Work of breathing and breathing resistance: Physiologically based limits*
- *Part 5: Thermal effects*
- *Part 6: Psycho-physiological effects*
- *Part 7: Hearing and speech*
- *Part 8: Ergonomic factors*

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Introduction

This part of ISO/TS 16976 addresses the psychological factors that can trigger physiological effects (psycho-physiology effects) that contribute to user acceptance, or the ability to tolerate wearing respiratory protective devices (RPD) for the duration needed. This part of ISO/TS 16976 takes the position that the psychological state has a physiological correlate (e.g. anxiety is accompanied by an increase in heart rate) and that the physiological responses to wearing an RPD have an impact on the psychology of the wearer (e.g. difficulty in breathing will result in anxiety). The following sections focus on a separate psycho-physiological situation that can impact user acceptance or contribute to the likelihood of the wearer removing the RPD prematurely and, thus, being exposed to a respiratory hazard. The physiological responses to wearing an RPD is addressed first followed by a discussion on the psychological responses to wearing RPD. The discussion then turns to the methodologies used to measure the psycho-physiological responses and how these measurements are used to predict whether an individual will have difficulty wearing an RPD. Finally, this part of ISO/TS 16976 addresses the selection criteria that can be used to determine who is best suited to engage in an occupation requiring the use of RPD.

The following definitions apply in understanding how to implement an ISO International Standard and other normative ISO deliverables (TS, PAS, IWA).

- “shall” indicates a requirement.
- “should” indicates a recommendation.
- “may” is used to indicate that something is permitted.
- “can” is used to indicate that something is possible, for example, that an organization or individual is able to do something.

3.3.1 of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (sixth edition, 2011) defines a requirement as an “expression in the content of a document conveying criteria to be fulfilled if compliance with the document is to be claimed and from which no deviation is permitted.”

3.3.2 of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (sixth edition, 2011) defines a recommendation as an “expression in the content of a document conveying that among several possibilities one is recommended as particularly suitable, without mentioning or excluding others, or that a certain course of action is preferred but not necessarily required, or that (in the negative form) a certain possibility or course of action is deprecated but not prohibited.”