

No-Substitution Request:

PA State Police Justification for No-Substitution Procurement of MSA Superlite 4500 PSI Carbon Wrapped 60-Minutes and 45-Minutes Cylinders.

Justification:

The Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) Clandestine Laboratory Response Team (CLRT) utilizes Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Air Cylinders during assessments, evidence processing, and raids on clandestine laboratory responses. SCBAs are worn due to air quality issues and hazards associated with illegal clandestine laboratories. Each air cylinder has an expiration date, which lists the end of life at fifteen (15) years from the cylinder's manufacture date. Currently, CLRT has twenty-five (25) air cylinders which will expire and need replaced. The expired cylinders will be removed from service and permanently disabled, as required by regulation.

The PSP CLRT currently utilizes MSA Carbon Cylinders and MSA Harnesses. The MSA Harness that PSP CLRT is currently equipped with are only compatible with MSA Cylinders. The MSA Harnesses being utilized by PSP CLRT are still in working order and are expensive to be replaced. The MSA Cylinders being requested will continue to work with the current harness system. Additionally, the PSP Special Emergency Response Team (SERT) also utilizes the same MSA Carbon Wrapped Cylinders for SCBA incidents.

The MSA Carbon Wrapped Cylinders are important due to the weight of each cylinder, which is why PSP CLRT currently utilizes MSA Carbon Cylinders. The carbon cylinders are substantially lighter-weight, allowing CLRT members greater mobility and a tactical advantage when responding to, and performing raids of, clandestine laboratories.

CLRT members work in hazardous conditions and environments while dressed in Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), posing an increased risk of heat stress on the members' bodies. For example, CLRT members are responsible for responding to large-scale fentanyl and methamphetamine operations across Pennsylvania, which often require Level-A or Level-B PPE responses. Such PPE responses involve covering the members' bodies with chemical protective suits, restricting the members' ability to naturally cool down. Additionally, during the processing stage of a response CLRT members often carry heavy objects and equipment while donned in PPE. Heat stress is a serious risk of CLRT work, and the light-weight MSA Carbon Wrapped Cylinders decrease the risk to CLRT members.