



FIRST RESPONDER

October '03 Newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE:

- * **Oxygen Regulators - Is yours safe ??**
- * **Comparison in CPR Ratios**
- * **Qld Child Care Regulation 2003 - ill advised legislation !!!!!**
- * **First Response Australia introduces Co-provider agreements and site license arrangements**

Continued from previous column

So it pays to be aware of when changes occur in Standards as it would then be prudent to conduct a risk assessment to determine whether changes in equipment are required. We have noted that regulators that don't comply with Australian Standards are being offered for sale at bargain prices. This may not result in the savings anticipated, as these units may be prone to greater maintenance as indeed in some cases failure which could lead to serious harm or death. In Japan recently the Fire Service has removed all aluminium oxygen regulators from its service due to the explosion of two regulators. It is our understanding that aluminium regulators are still being offered for sale in Australia. Not only is the aluminium a concern with Oxygen regulators, the pressure gauges attached to them can present additional hazards to the users.

Lack of regular maintenance is one major cause of equipment failure so complying with manufacturers and distributors recommendations regarding servicing is a wise move.

Medical Oxygen Regulators - Is yours safe & compliant ?

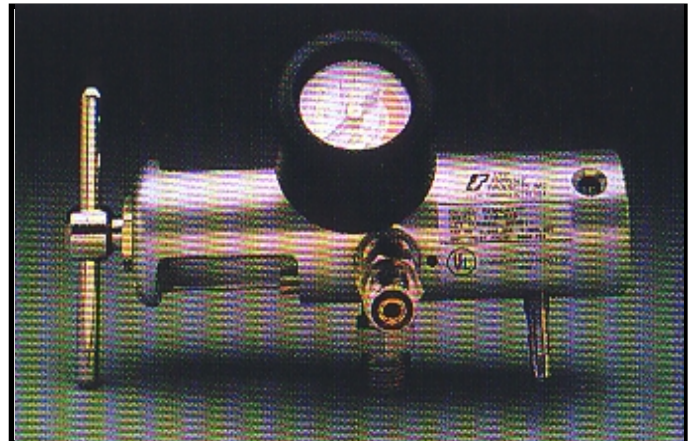
Recently our office has received calls regarding whether certain regulators comply with Australian Standards and if not does it mean they are unsafe! Another question often asked is "do we have to have our regulators serviced annually even though they are never used?"

Let me address these concerns as separate issues. Firstly, Australian Standards are prepared by committees made up of experts from industry, governments, user groups and others. The requirements or recommendations contained in published standards are a consensus of the views of representative interests and also take into account comments received from other sources. They reflect latest scientific and industry experience. Australian Standards are kept under continuous review after publication and are updated regularly to take account of changing technology.

Standards Australia is an independent not for profit organisation with the essence of its operation being a common objective to establish standards as benchmarks for products and services so as to enhance quality of life and industry efficiency.

If an incident were to occur, checks may be made to see if operators had complied with these standards.

Continued next column



One of the common types of aluminium regulators used.

We suggest that a quick way to know if your regulator complies with current standards is to log on to : www.neann.com/auststds.htm

This site will allow you to compare your equipment with the standards and check compliance. This information will at least allow for informed decisions to be made regarding the appropriateness of equipment. When in doubt seek advice from the distributors.

Edited by Charles Makray - managing director

Visit us at www.FirstResponseAustralia.com.au

EMERGENCY CARE TRAINING - DEFIBRILLATION AND OXYGEN EQUIPMENT
PO Box 81 N, North Cairns, QLD 4870, Australia. Phone: (07) 4032-2444
email: admin@FirstResponseAustralia.com.au



FIRST RESPONDER

October Newsletter

page 2

Continued from previous column

revoked immediately, sighting that Queensland Parliament has just revoked similar legislation, namely Section 44 of the Queensland Ambulance Service Act 1991 on the grounds of anti-competitive bias.

ECPA also recommended that if the Department of Families wished to ensure an acceptable standard of first aid training for Child Care workers it should recognise courses delivered by Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) providing nationally recognised training.

We hope to soon see the Regulation amended which was ill advised and developed without industry consultation and input from providers. This in itself contradicts the policies of the Queensland Government when drafting new regulations.

At the time of printing this newsletter, the Department of Families has not yet informed the Child Care Industry of the amended list of approved providers. We hope this inequity is resolved soon.

Unfair legislation effects First Aid Providers once again.

After four years of battling unfair legislation regarding who is able to teach First Aid in Queensland and seeing the removal of draconian legislation (namely the Ambulance Services Act 1991, Section 44) First Aid providers are again dismayed in receiving news about ill advised legislation in the Child Care Industry.

In September of this year the Department of Families introduced the "Child Care Regulation 2003". Providers of first aid were dismayed to find that once again this regulation limited access to this market to the four major Queensland commercial first aid providers; namely Queensland Ambulance Service, St. John Ambulance Queensland, Australian Red Cross Queensland and Surf Lifesaving Queensland State Centre.

For many First Aid providers this was seen as advertising via legislation. The dismay was especially compounded by the fact that for four years Emergency Care Providers-Australia (ECPA) - the peak industry body in Australia representing commercial providers has fought to have the Queensland Government repeal the Queensland Ambulance Services Act 1991. Section 44 of the Act was found to unfairly limit access to the Queensland first aid market to the four organisations mentioned above. This Act was repealed this June as a result of the efforts of ECPA.

In essence, the CEO of Department of Families has set themselves up as an approving body for First Aid provision in Queensland. This is totally unacceptable !

After receiving a barrage of complaints the CEOs office has revamped its list of those deemed as acceptable providers to the Child Care Industry. This now consists of a list of approximately 50 plus providers who are either Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) or Co -Providers of RTOs.

The problem here is that the Child Care Industry does not know about this back flip.

ECPA, representing the commercial providers in Queensland has requested to the Minister for Families that the section relating to approved first aid providers (section 121) be

Continued next column

New course in the Management of Cyanide Poisoning.

First Response Australia is set to launch its new unit of competency for the popular Certificate IV program for the training of Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT). The unit deals with the management of Cyanide Poisoning with the administration of specified antidotes under medical direction.

There are usually three types of antidotes available to industries using cyanide in the processing of gold. The newly accredited unit allows for the variations or combinations of antidotes used in workplaces, which are dependant on drug legislation and/ or preference as to which may be used.

The unit can be delivered as a stand alone program or can be chosen as an elective in the Certificate IV EMT program and has a prerequisite or co-requisite of Intravenous Fluid Therapy.

This is the first time (at least in Australia) that a competency has been developed in this area. The product is available for on site delivery or can be delivered by appropriately qualified trainer/assessors through co-provider arrangements or site licensing.

Visit us at www.FirstResponseAustralia.com.au

EMERGENCY CARE TRAINING - DEFIBRILLATION AND OXYGEN EQUIPMENT
PO Box 81 N, North Cairns, QLD 4870, Australia. Phone: (07) 4032-2444
email: admin@FirstResponseAustralia.com.au



Continued from previous column



Box Jellyfish

Irukandji Jellyfish

Comparison in CPR Ratios - compressions to ventilations

In previous newsletters we have given a lot of attention to the research that is currently taking place, challenging the traditional ways of doing CPR.

A recent study conducted in Norway and published this year looked at the effectiveness of various ratios used in CPR. This study explored 3 different ratios of CPR; 15:2, 50:2 and 50:5. The study was conducted on anaesthetised pigs which had cardiac arrest induced (ventricular fibrillation VF). All 3 ratios had pauses in compressions for the ventilations. Ventilations were carried out with 17% oxygen and 4% carbon dioxide.

The 15:2 ratio was clearly superior in Pulmonary gas exchange, arterial oxygen saturation and oxygen delivery to the brain. Central venous oxygenation, which gives some indication of tissue oxygenation was higher for the 15:2 ratio than for the others. Only 3 second pauses were given for the ventilations which may be difficult to replicate with 1 person CPR in humans. But 2 person CPR using this ratio may more closely replicate the study method and results.

The study concluded that it might seem reasonable to suggest that basic CPR done by professionals should continue with the ratio of 15:2 at present if it can be shown that similar brief pauses for ventilations can be achieved in clinical practice.

Our organisation promotes the 15:2 ratio for all CPR. That is adult, child and infant, 1 and 2 operator. Hopefully this will result in better retention of skills and greater effectiveness.

Barrier Reef Tour Operators gear up for "stinger" season

With summer almost upon us, Port Douglas Reef Operators are gearing up in preparation in what is expected to be a big year for stingers.

2001-2002 saw a record year for admissions into hospital with people suffering from Irukandji Syndrome. In fact over 118 persons were admitted into Cairns Base Hospital.

Continued next column

This heralded significant changes in how tour operators to the Barrier Reef ensured their guests had a safe and enjoyable experience on the reef. Seminars were presented along the Queensland coast to ensure operators had the latest information regarding the prevention and management of Jellyfish Stings.

Quicksilver Connections of Port Douglas will host a seminar this month to again update operators on all issues that may affect the reef experiences many come to the region to enjoy.

First Response Australia will be actively involved in presenting the latest and safest ways to manage Jellyfish stings in its training programs.

Stay tuned next month for our report on the presentations of this Seminar.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATE LEVEL IV PROGRAMS

CAIRNS

December 12, 2003 (8 days full-time)

SYDNEY

January 10, 2003 (8 days full-time)

RECERTIFICATION COURSE

CAIRNS

November 15-16, 2003 (2 days full-time)

Visit us at www.FirstResponseAustralia.com.au