

User Advisory Notice
BE-10BR Hood
Immediate Action Required

September 30, 2016

Dear Valued Customer,

The purpose of this document is to communicate a valve replacement notice as well as new use and storage limitations 3M has identified during the redesign and requalification process of the Breathe Easy™ BE-10BR rubber butyl hood. The BE-10BR Hood is sold individually or within multiple 3M™ Breathe Easy™ powered air purifying respirator kits (PAPR).

Please read this document in its entirety as there are actions that warrant your immediate attention.

Based on recent work that reexamined various aspects of current and prior products, several learnings have been discovered. As a result, we are undertaking four important actions, which warrant your immediate attention:

1. Through internal 3M testing, we have discovered that the over-pressure valves may perform in a manner so that the claimed APF 1000 of the hood in laboratory tests is not met in certain instances. Therefore, the valves must be replaced as soon as possible in hoods manufactured from January 2007 to March 2016. The manufacture date of the BE-10BR Hood can be determined by inspecting the label as shown below.



The over-pressure valve is shown here seated in the valve holder after the exhaust valve cover has been removed.

Action Required: Replace valve and valve holder assemblies in hoods that were manufactured between January 2007 to March 2016.

- Call 1-855-317-4203 and request a complimentary replacement valve and valve seat for each hood manufactured from January 2007- March 2016 (see photo below).

- Follow the instructions accompanying this letter on valve and valve holder replacement.



The manufacture date of the BE-10BR hood can be found by inspecting the label located on the interior of the inner shroud

2. As a result of our examination of previously sold product, we are establishing a 10 year maximum life (shelf life plus in use life) for the BE-10BR hood, when used and stored in accordance with our recommended temperature range. **Product used beyond the 10-year shelf life or stored outside of our recommended temperature range may not work as expected.**

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the establishment of a 10-year maximum life for the BE-10BR, please contact us at 1-800-243-4630, and we will work with you to resolve the issue.

Action required: Immediately remove any BE-10BR hoods from service that are older than ten years. In addition, establish a mechanism for tracking the age of hoods in your stockpile to ensure they do not exceed the 10 year maximum life. Contact 3M Technical Service if you have questions or concerns regarding this point.

3. For all hoods in your inventory less than 10 years old, we ask that you visually inspect the condition of the hood and all components for signs of degradation, such as:
 - Fabric: Examine the condition of the fabric, outer and inner shroud and face seal. Check that there are no cracks, rips, holes, tears or other damage.

- Face seal elastic: Examine the condition of the face seal. Check that there is no peeling or breaking down of the elastic. Stretch several 2-3 inch sections of the face seal and verify that it recovers to its original length.
- Nape seal elastic: Examine the condition of the nape seal (seal at the base of the skull). Check that there are no holes, tears or other damage. Stretch several 2-3 inch sections of the nape seal and verify that it recovers to its original length.
- Suspension: Examine the head suspension for cracks, tears or other damage. Stretch several 2-3 inch sections of the suspension elastic and verify that it recovers to its original length.
- Breathing tube connection: Examine the exterior and interior of the breathing tube connection point (near the nape seal). Check that there are no cracks, rips, dents holes, tears or other damage. Attempt to rotate the circular breathing tube connection interface and verify it does not move.
- Visor: Look for creases, scratches, or other visual distortions that make it difficult to see through the visor. Examine the visor for cracks or holes that permit contaminated air to enter the hood.
- Seams: examine the luting (seal) on the seams to ensure that it is not peeling, cracked, flaking or otherwise damaged. Inspect closely to verify that the seam, including threads, are covered.
- Valve: Inspect the valve assembly to ensure all parts are present. There should be a valve cover and valve flap present in the valve holder. Verify the valve holder is tight in the visor by turning the retaining ring on the back of the valve assembly.

Please refer to pages 5 and 6 for assistance in identifying certain components.

Action required: Carefully inspect hoods within the 10-year shelf-life, and remove from service any that exhibit signs of degradation. Contact 3M Technical Service at 1-800-243-4630 if you have any questions regarding inspection.

4. As this system is important for emergency preparedness, we ask that all *User Instructions* be reviewed to re-familiarize supervisors and users with important instructions, warnings, limitations, and other information important for use of the system.

Action required: Carefully review *User Instructions* for the BE-10BR hood and all component parts. Contact 3M Technical Service at 1-

800-243-4630 if you have any questions regarding the *User Instructions*.

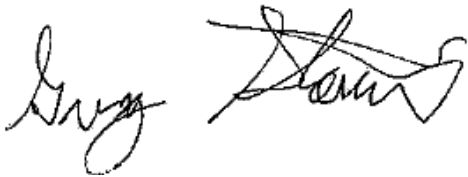
The BE-10BR Hood is sold individually and also in multiple 3M™ Breathe Easy™ powered air purifying respirator kits (PAPR). See reference pages below.

Should you have any questions please contact your local Sales Representative or 3M Personal Safety Division Technical Service at 1-800-243-4630. In Canada, please contact Technical Service at 1-800-267-4414. To request your complimentary valve and valve seat replacement please call 1-855-317-4203.

Sincerely,



Brandon L. Cordts
Global Business Manager for DR, P&SA, and Protective Apparel
3M Personal Safety Division
3M **Center**, Building 0235-02-E-57
St. Paul, MN 55144-1000

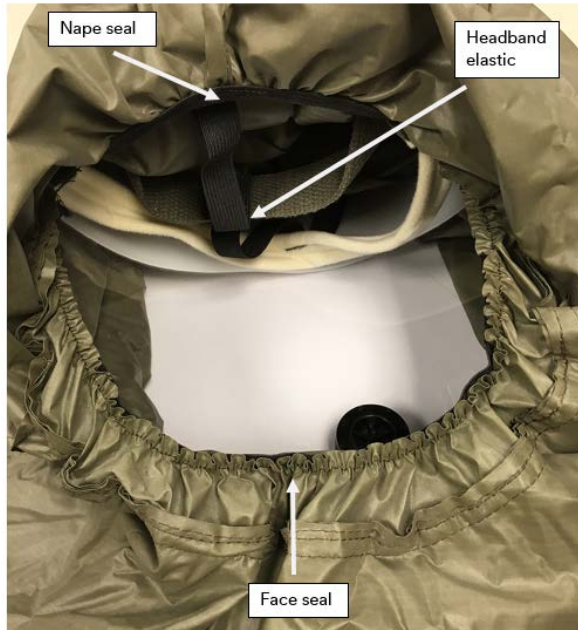


Greg Stanich
Personal Safety Division
Quality Manager

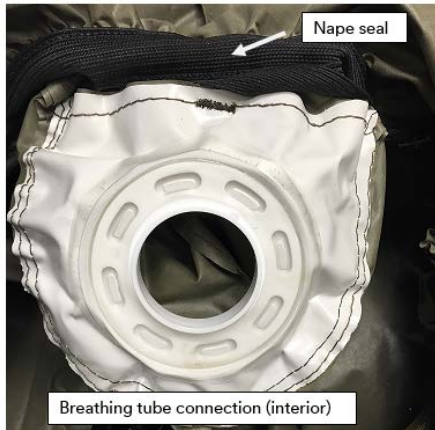
Inspection Reference



Interior view of the BE-10BR:



A closer view of the shroud interior, near nape seal:



Luting of the Seam:



Additional information on the catalog numbers:

3M Catalog Nbr/Prod ID: **BE-10BR**

UPC: 0-00-51138-72094-0

3M ID: 78-8124-0094-9



Description: Used with 3M(TM) Breathe Easy(TM) Powered Air Purifying Respirator (PAPR) Systems. Chemical resistant material provides high level of airflow while providing excellent vision and accommodates facial hair and glasses.

3M Catalog Nbr/Prod ID: **RBE-L10**

UPC: 0-00-51131-91899-3

3M ID: 70-0712-8788-5



Description: This hood powered air purifying respirator system helps provide respiratory protection to first responders, law enforcement, military and health care professionals needing protection from or responding to natural disasters or acts of terrorism. Features 12 hour non-rechargeable Battery Pack 520-04-57R01 (primary lithium ion)

3M Catalog Nbr/Prod ID: **RBE-NM10**

UPC: 0-00-51131-91902-0

3M ID: 70-0712-8791-9



Description: This hood powered air purifying respirator system helps provide respiratory protection to first responders, law enforcement, military and health care professionals needing protection from or responding to natural disasters or acts of terrorism. Features Battery Pack BP-15 (nickel metal hydride)

3M Catalog Nbr/Prod ID: **FR-57L10**

UPC: 0-00-51131-52570-2

3M ID: 70-0710-4028-4



Description: NIOSH-approved Breathe Easy powered air purifying respirator system with lightweight butyl rubber hood and lithium battery helps provide respiratory protection and a continuous flow of filtered air to the wearer. Uses 3M(TM) Cartridge FR-57/453-03-02R06. Features 12 hour non-rechargeable Battery Pack 520-04-57R01 (primary lithium ion)

3M Catalog Nbr/Prod ID: **FR-57N10**

UPC: 0-00-51131-52571-9

3M ID: 70-0710-4029-2




Description: NIOSH-approved Breathe Easy powered air purifying respirator system with lightweight butyl rubber hood and lithium battery helps provide respiratory protection and continuous flow of filtered air to the wearer. Uses 3M(TM) Cartridge FR-57/453-03-02R06. Features Battery Pack BP-15 (nickel metal hydride)

**3M BE-10BR User Advisory Notice
Frequently Asked Questions**

Q.	Why are you requiring that valves be replaced in certain BE-10BR hoods?
A.	<p>Through internal testing we have discovered that the over-pressure valves may perform in a manner so that the claimed APF 1000 of the hood in laboratory tests is not met in certain instances. Therefore, the valves must be replaced as soon as possible in hoods manufactured from January 2007 to March 2016.</p> <p>In instances where the claimed APF 1000 of the hood was not met the over-pressure valve was warped, affecting its performance. This may not be visible to the naked eye, which is why we are requesting all valves present in hoods manufactured within the specified time frame be replaced.</p> <p>We have established controls to ensure that hoods manufactured after March 2016 and future product are not affected.</p>
Q.	Why are you limiting the valve and valve holder replacements for products manufactured from January 2007-March 2016?
A.	We have recently established a 10 year maximum use life of the BE-10BR hood and are offering complimentary replacement valves for product that falls within this timeframe.
Q.	How can I determine the manufacture date of my BE-10BR hoods?
A.	<p>The manufacture date of the BE-10BR can be found by inspecting the interior of the inner shroud, as shown.</p> <p>After your examination, we ask that you remove BE-10BR hoods from service that are beyond the established 10 year maximum life.</p> <p>For hoods within the 10 year maximum life we ask that you follow the inspection guidance outlined in the BE-10BR User Advisory Notice and establish a mechanism for tracking the age of hoods in your stockpile to ensure that they do not exceed the 10 year maximum life.</p> <p>Please also read the BE-10BR <i>User Instruction</i> to re-familiarize yourself with important instructions, warnings, limitations, and other information important for use of the system.</p>



Q.	What number can I call to request replacements?
	You may call 1-855-217-4203 to request your valve replacements.
A.	The replacement product will include the valve and valve holder. Please keep in mind that you will need to keep certain components, specifically the exhaust valve cover and retaining ring, which are already present on your BE-10BR hoods.
Q.	Am I required to show evidence of when my BE-10BR Hoods were manufactured?
A.	We will ask you for the manufacture date of your BE-10BR hoods to verify that the hoods you are requesting valves for were manufactured in the last 10 years. This allows us to align with the 10 year maximum life we recently established for the BE-10BR.
Q.	I don't have easy access to my stockpile of BE-10BR hoods but believe they were manufactured in the last 10 years. Can I still request replacement valves?
A.	Yes. We understand that not all users will have easy access to their stockpile of BE-10BR Hoods. If you believe your hoods were manufactured in the last 10 years we ask that once you request and receive your replacement valves you follow all other instructions outlined in the BE-10BR User Advisory Notice.
Q.	I've requested my replacement valves. What are the next step(s)?
A.	Once you receive your replacements, follow the written instructions included in the package on how to replace the valve and valve holder in your existing BE-10BR hoods. If you need additional guidance in replacing your valves please call 3M Technical Service at 1-800-243-4630. We also ask that, in addition to establishing a mechanism for tracking the age of BE-10BR hoods in your stockpile, that you develop an ongoing protocol for visual inspection of the hoods for signs of degradation as outlined in the BE-10BR User Advisory Notice and the BE-10BR <i>User Instruction</i> .
Q.	Does replacing the valve on my BE-10BR extend the established shelf life of the product?
A.	No, replacing the valve on the BE-10BR does not extend the maximum life beyond the established 10 years.
Q.	Can I still use my hood while waiting for my replacement valve and valve holder?
A.	We recommend that you take your BE-10BR hoods out of service until you receive your replacement valves from 3M. If you have urgent needs to use your hood in an immediate timeframe, please contact 3M Technical Service at 1-800-243-4630.
Q.	How can I tell the difference between my new replacement valve and the existing valves in my stock of BE-10BR?
A.	The replacement valve will have a "04" with 12 separate dots that when added up, represent a 2016 manufacture date. In January 2017, the marking will change to a "04" with 13 separate dots representing a 2017 manufacture date.

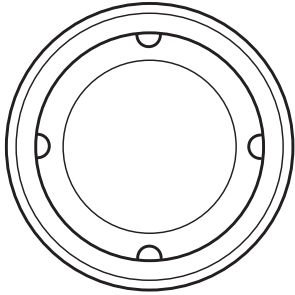
	<p>Valves present in older hoods will have a different year marking, different dot code, or both.</p> <p>This photo shows an example of how the markings on the new replacement valve will look if manufactured in 2016:</p> 
Q.	<p>How do I dispose of BE-10BR Hoods that are outside of the 10 year maximum useful life?</p>
A.	<p>As requirements can vary depending on location, we recommend that you dispose of the product according to your local regulations.</p>
Q.	<p>I need more BE-10BR Hoods. Who can I contact?</p>
A.	<p>To order more BE-10BR hoods you can reach out to your local 3M Personal Safety Division Sales Representative. For help finding your local 3M Rep please call 3M Technical Service at 1-800-243-4630.</p> <p>You can also reach out to 3M PSD Customer Service at 1-800-328-1667. For Federal Government Sales please call 1-800-752-3623 and for State Government Sales please call 1-800-328-1667, option 2.</p>
Q.	<p>I have more technical questions about the User Advisory. Who can I contact?</p>
A.	<p>Please contact 3M Technical Service at 1-800-243-4630. In Canada call 1-800-267-4414.</p>



BE-10BR Hood Valve and Valve Holder Replacement

User Instructions

IMPORTANT: Keep this *User Instruction* for reference. If you have questions regarding these products contact 3M Technical Service.



34-8719-7855-6



⚠ WARNING

This product is part of a system that helps protect against certain airborne contaminants. **Misuse may result in sickness or death.** For proper use, see supervisor, *User Instructions* or call 3M in U.S.A., 1-800-243-4630. In Canada, call Technical Service at 1-800-267-4414.

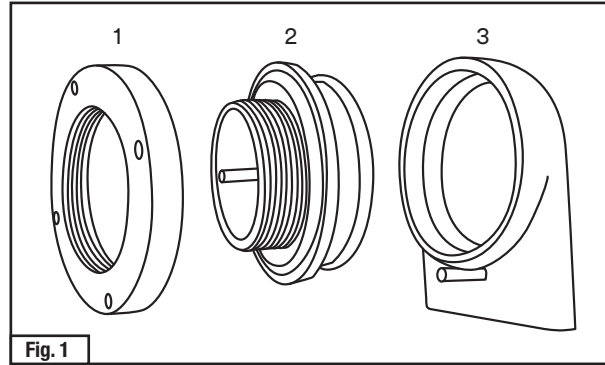
Contact Information

In United States:
Website: www.3M.com/workersafety
Technical Service: 1-800-243-4630

In Canada:
Website: www.3M.com/CA/PPESafety
Technical Service: 1-800-267-4414

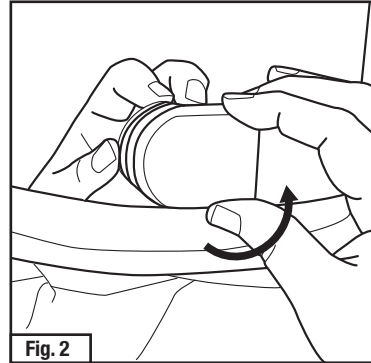
Components of BE-10BR Valve Assembly (Fig. 1):

1. Retaining ring (use existing).
2. **Valve and valve holder (replace with new valve and valve holder).**
3. Exhaust Valve Cover (use existing).

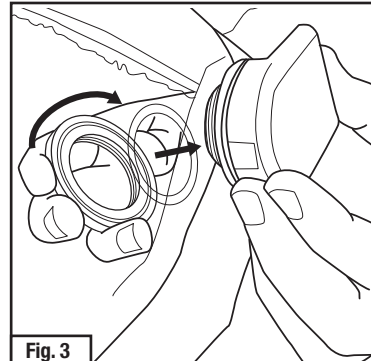


Steps in valve and valve holder replacement:
Removing the Valve Assembly from the BE-10BR Hood

1. Hold the valve assembly secure by placing one hand on the inside of the BE-10BR Hood to hold the retaining ring in place. Use the other hand to quarter turn the exhaust valve cover to loosen it as shown in Fig. 2.

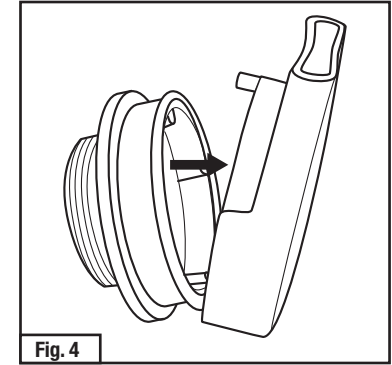


2. Once the exhaust valve cover is loosened, turn the retaining ring on the back side of the visor until it separates from the front of the exhaust valve cover, valve and valve holder combination (Fig. 3).



Removing the exhaust valve cover from valve/valve holder

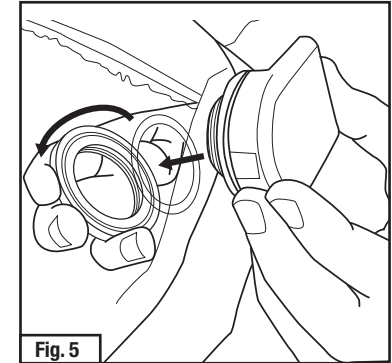
3. Gently pull the exhaust valve cover off of the valve holder (Fig. 4). If needed, the retaining ring can be placed back on the valve holder for additional grip when attempting to remove the exhaust valve cover.



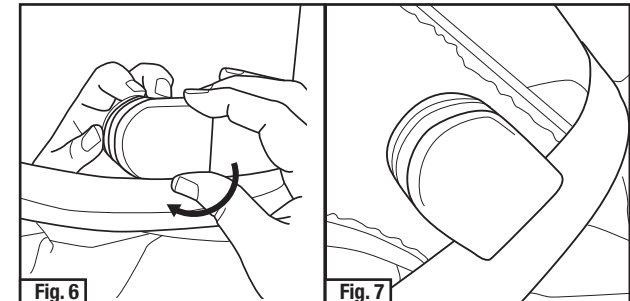
4. Place the exhaust valve cover on the new valve and valve holder **being careful in trying not to touch the valve in the process.**

Replacing the valve assembly in the BE-10BR Hood

5. From the front side of the visor, insert the valve, valve holder and exhaust valve cover combination through the hole in the visor. Hold the valve, valve holder and exhaust valve cover combination so that the exhaust valve release is facing a 3 o'clock position. From the backside of the visor, mate the retaining ring with the threads on the valve holder.



6. Grasping the valve cover, hand tighten the retaining ring until the ring is snug and secure against the visor. Quarter turn the exhaust valve cover to secure it in place (Fig. 6 and Fig. 7).



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FOR MORE INFORMATION

In United States, contact:
Website: www.3M.com/workersafety
Technical Assistance: 1-800-243-4630
For other 3M products:
1-800-3M-HELPS or 1-651-737-6501