

REQUESTING AN EXCEPTION TO THE SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS REQUIREMENT:

The requirements in Title 30 of the Texas Administrative Code (30 TAC) §290.42(e)(4)(A) state when chlorine gas is used, a full-face self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) or supplied air respirator that meets Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards for construction and operation, and a small bottle of fresh ammonia solution for chlorine leakage testing, shall be readily accessible outside the chlorinator room and immediately available to the operator in the event of an emergency. In cases where a public water system utilizes multiple remotely located chlorine gas injection sites, this requirement may be financially prohibitive. The PWS can request an exception to the rule by providing the following information to:

Technical Review and Oversight Team (MC 159)
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, TX 78711-3087

This information includes:

- Documentation that a chlorine gas detector is installed and regularly tested to ensure that it is in working condition at each site where chlorine gas is used;
- Documentation that the SCBA unit(s) meet the OSHA standards as specified in 30 TAC §290.42(k)(1). Information regarding these standards may be found in [OSHA Title 29 Code of Federal Regulations \(29 CFR\) Part 1910.134ⁱ](#);
- Documentation that a respiratory protection program which complies with OSHA's 29 CFR Part 1910.134 is being maintained by the system;
- An updated copy of the standard operating procedure (SOP) that is to be followed in the event of an emergency involving the chlorine gas. This SOP must be disseminated to current and new staff;
- A log of visits to wells which includes the following information:
 - Personnel who were present;
 - Vehicle(s) driven to the site; and
 - Whether chlorine gas was handled during the visit.
- A list of emergency telephone numbers for local authorities, including poison control, fire and emergency personnel, and the system's emergency personnel contact.

Please note that records required by OSHA's 29 CFR 1910.134 must be readily available to TCEQ staff upon request. Additionally, records of chlorine gas detector tests, copies of the updated emergency SOP, and logs of visits to wells (which include the personnel who were present, the vehicle(s) that was driven to the site, and whether chlorine gas was handled during the visit) shall be kept on file for a period of two years and must be readily available to TCEQ staff upon request as specified in 30 TAC §290.46(f).

ⁱ https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=12716