

## 🔔 Reminder: Is Your Grade D Breathing Air Certification Current?

Renewing your annual certification time comes faster than we think.



If you're using supplied air systems, OSHA requires breathing air to meet **Grade D standards** — and routine testing and documentation are not optional. Carbon monoxide levels, oxygen content, moisture, and contaminants must be verified to protect the workers who depend on that air every day.

Grade D Breathing Air is the minimum air quality standard required for supplied-air respirators in occupational settings. Defined by OSHA and the Compressed Gas Association (CGA G-7.1), Grade D air must contain 19.5–23.5% oxygen, no more than 10 ppm carbon monoxide, no more than 1,000 ppm carbon dioxide, limited hydrocarbons (5 mg/m<sup>3</sup> or less), and be free of noticeable odors. These limits are critical because contaminated breathing air can quickly lead to dizziness, unconsciousness, long-term health effects, or death—especially in confined spaces or hazardous atmospheres.

Workers relying on supplied air systems—such as those performing tank cleaning, painting, abrasive blasting, or confined space entry—depend entirely on the quality of that air. Even small amounts of carbon monoxide or oil vapor can create life-threatening conditions. That's why filtration systems, carbon monoxide monitors, and routine testing are essential components of any breathing air setup.

OSHA requires employers to ensure that compressed breathing air meets at least Grade D standards. Air quality should be tested at least quarterly, or more frequently depending on usage, compressor type, and manufacturer recommendations. Additionally, continuous carbon monoxide monitoring is required when using oil-lubricated compressors.

Regular certification and documentation of Grade D air testing not only protect workers but also demonstrate compliance and reinforce a strong safety culture.

Don't wait for an audit... or worse, an incident.

Now is the time to:

- ✓ Schedule your annual Grade D air testing
- ✓ Verify your CO monitors are calibrated
- ✓ Inspect filters and compressor maintenance logs
- ✓ Update your documentation

Your team relies on that air to go home safe. If you're unsure when your last certification was completed, it's probably time to check. Give **Baldwin Safety Solutions** a call **682.381.8680**, we can help.