



Federal Aviation Administration

MMEL Policy Letter (PL) 43, Revision 2

Date: **December 18, 2011**
To: All Region Flight Standards Division Managers
All Aircraft Evaluation Group Managers
From: Manager, Air Transportation Division, AFS-200
Reply to Attn of: Manager, Technical Programs Branch, AFS-260

SUBJECT: Crewmember Protective Breathing Equipment (PBE)

MMEL CODE: 35 (OXYGEN)

REFERENCE: Revision 1, dated August 15, 1997
PL-43, Original, dated 15 March 1990

PURPOSE:

To establish standard MMEL relief for Protective Breathing Equipment (PBE).

DISCUSSION:

Revision 2 adds relief for PBE removed and the requirement to remove or obscure the PBE location placard.

Revision 1 updates PL- 43 to current PL standards.

The requirement for portable PBE units for use by crewmembers in combating an in-flight fire became effective January 31, 1990. Airline operators can procure PBE units from several different manufacturers. One distributor, the Puritan-Bennett Aero Systems Company, has informed operators who purchased their crewmember PBE units that a new determination has been made on the serviceability of these units. Based on their test, the vacuum pouch of a Puritan-Bennett PBE unit may be punctured for up to seven days without degradation of the moisture sensitive chemical in the atmosphere regenerating system. Previous guidance from the company was to replace any unit, in which the vacuum pouch had been punctured, at the first opportunity not to exceed 48 hours.

POLICY:

A punctured **PBE** seal may reveal damage to other than the regenerating system, such as a torn hood or broken face plate. Anytime a **PBE** seal is broken the PBE unit is considered inoperable. It is, therefore, necessary to require all crewmember PBE units, required by the **Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)**, to be operable. Crewmember PBE units in excess of those required by **CFR** may be granted relief.

The following standard MMEL proviso and repair category is adopted to provide standardization among all MMELs.

35 (OXYGEN)

XX-X	Protective Breathing Equipment (PBE)	D	-	-	Any in excess of those required by CFR may be inoperative or removed provided location placarding is removed or obscured.
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Each Flight Operations Evaluation Board (FOEB) Chairman should apply this Policy to affected MMELs through the normal FOEB process.

/s/

John S. Duncan
Manager, Air Transportation Division