



POLICY	Issue: 1.0
Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Incidents (Facial Hair)	Date: 01/12/2009

Policy Statement

The Civil Nuclear Constabulary (CNC) has a policy in relation to responding to, and dealing with, Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Incidents. A number of CNC officers have been trained and equipped to deal with such incidents. In addition to this, all Front Line CNC Officers will be trained in the use of and issued with respirators and other types of breathing apparatus. These pieces of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) require an airtight seal to avoid contamination of inhaled air. Wearing this type of PPE where the seal is in contact with any facial hair growth will result in an improper seal being formed between the equipment and the wearer's face. This will allow contaminated air to be inhaled and consequently the officer may become a liability to themselves, their colleagues and any person they are dealing with during a CBRN incident. This is an unacceptable risk for the officer which may result in immediate or long-term problems, including death, dependent always on the CBRN hazard.

To ensure officer safety, a policy is required in relation to facial hair in order to protect the life and maintain the wellbeing of these officers. Facial hair is likely to result in an improper seal between the PPE and the wearer's face.

Officers who are required to wear respirators and other types of breathing apparatus during the course of their duties must, so far as is reasonably practicable, maintain that part of the face which may affect the reflex seal, free from hair in order for the PPE to make an airtight seal with the face. Any hair which does not come into contact with the seal will not be subject to the restriction.

If expected to operate with a respirator or breathing apparatus for any length of time, officers with particularly vigorous facial hair growth must have the ability to shave. Any officer who is subject to facial hair growth and may be expected to wear the PPE, should not go for longer than 24 hrs without shaving the facial hair which may affect the airtight seal of the PPE.

Aims of the Policy

To supplement CNC/POL/6.2.4 Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Incidents in further minimising the risk to Police Officers who wear respirators and other breathing apparatus as part of their personal protective equipment.

This policy is enacted by the following management system documents:

CNC/POL/6.2.4	Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Incidents
CNC/PP/0430	Radiation Protection Procedures
CNC/PP/0407	Health & Safety General Risk Assessment & Control Procedure

Document Reference	CNC/POL/6.2.5	Page 1 of 1
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