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Fire & Rescue Division
Hazardous Materials Section

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APR RESPIRATOR CARTRIDGE
COLOR CODEING

There are numerous types of filter cartridges available for use with the APR respirator. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) have developed a color-coding system for APR canisters. The chart below shows the color coding scheme, where the color code strip can be found, and what each color signifies with regard to use. For more information go to: www.cdc.gov/niosh/nppitl/resources/pressrel/letters/lttr-011708.html

The color code stripe is usually found centered midway between top and bottom of the side. For example, Acid Gases have a plain white ½” wide stripe.

Some canisters have two stripes. For example, Pure Chlorine (gas) has both a ½” white stripe and a ½” yellow stripe closer to the bottom of the canister.

Manufacturers of canisters do try to follow this coding chart. There are literally hundreds of combinations.

These colors are in addition to the NIOSH CBRN label that must also be shown, if canister is so certified.