



**WINNIPEG  
Air Testing**

## Practical Health and Safety Solutions

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## What Types of Units Need to be Tested?

The CSA Standard on Compressed Breathing Air and Systems applies to compressed breathing air. A compressed breathing air system is defined by the standard as a permanent or moveable assembly of various components, e.g., an air intake, an ambient air system, a compressor, a purification system, a receiver, a cylinder, air cylinder filling station piping, fittings, gauges, a compressed breathing air pipeline, and control and monitoring equipment, required to produce and/or deliver compressed breathing air to the point of use. Compressed breathing air systems may take the following forms:

- supplied-air respirators;
- supplied-air suits;
- self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) (open circuit);
- ambient air systems; and
- other applications for which qualified persons deem it appropriate to reference the compressed breathing air purity requirements described in this Standard, e.g., vortex tubes used for heating and cooling supplied-air suits.

Compressed breathing air units are often found in spray booths, grit blast booths, auto body shops, industrial welding, and in operations where airborne contaminants are very high or unpredictable.



**A low pressure breathing air compressor.** This type of compressor can provide enough air for multiple workers and is generally found in larger factories and manufacturing facilities. These units operate above 15 PSI. Of course, there are many different models and this image is just an example of such a unit.



**Left: Ambient Air System:** These smaller units are often seen in autobody shops but can also be seen in factories. The units are about the size of a sewing machine and typically operate at 15 PSI or less. These units typically supply air to a single worker but can sometimes serve 2 workers depending on the horsepower of the unit and whether the workers are wearing loose hoods or tight-fitting respirators.