



Dear Half-Mast,

We know you're supposed to use a special alcohol with the M41 PATS (protection assessment test system), but every time we try to order it, our supply people say they can't get it for us. What can we do?

SGT M.S.

Dear Sergeant M.S.,

The PATS is very particular about what alcohol it uses. The **only** alcohol you can use with PATS is pure **reagent grade isopropyl alcohol**. If you use any other kind, the PATS optical system will clog and the only fix is to send it to the TMDE headshed in Alabama. If you can't get the correct alcohol, you're better off just not operating PATS until you can get the right stuff.

Part of the problem may be that the NSN for the reagent alcohol was changed several years ago to NSN 6810-01-382-2904, but the change hasn't made it into the PATS TM. So you may have been using the wrong NSN.

But we have heard that some supply folks tell CBRN specialists that only medical personnel are authorized the reagent alcohol. If you run into stubborn supply people, you can get your commander to approve a local purchase. Most local laboratory/chemical suppliers have it. Just make sure the bottle says ACS REAGENT GRADE ISOPROPYL ALCOHOL or 2-PROPANOL, with 99.5% purity by weight.

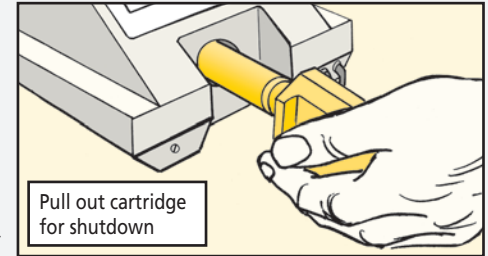
Or, you can order the alcohol through the Internet at these sites:

<http://secure.sciencecompany.com/Isopropyl-Alcohol-Reagent-995-16oz-P16071C670.aspx>

<http://www.2mooremedical.com/index.cfm?PG=CTL&CS=HOM&F=ProductDetail&PID=13842>

Remember that when you're through testing with PATS, you need to remove the alcohol cartridge. Otherwise, alcohol saturates the counting mechanism. Let the PATS run for 3-5 minutes to get rid of any excess alcohol.

Half-Mast



CBRN Protection Masks...

NO UNAUTHORIZED HYDRATION PLEASE

Some Soldiers are purchasing hardware for their M40/M42 and other CBRN masks that allow them to get water from the Camelbak® or other hydration systems while wearing their masks.

That could prove a fatal drink in a chemical environment. The hydration system may not have a bladder that seals out CBRN agents. So you end up sucking in the very agents your mask is protecting you from.

Just because an item is marketed as "Chem-Bio Defense" or "Chem-Bio Accessory" doesn't necessarily mean it will actually protect you from CBRN threats.

The **only** authorized hydration systems are the M1961 canteen, NSN 8465-01-115-0026; the 2-qt water canteen, NSN 8465-01-118-8173; the M1 canteen cap, NSN 8465-00-930-2077; and the water canteen cap, NSN 8465-01-529-9800.

The M1 is AAL for (and **only** for) the M40/M42 masks and works with both canteens. The water canteen cap also works with both canteens and will be used only with the new M50/M51 mask.

