

# COMPRESSED BREATHING AIR



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## Stringent Purity Testing

### Introduction

Compressed breathing air, used by firefighters, scuba divers, and industrial workers, requires stringent purity testing. Accredited by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC), Maxxam performs compressed gas testing in accordance with the following Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Standards:

- CAN3-Z180.1: Compressed Breathing Air and Systems
- Z275.2: Occupational Safety Code for Diving Operations

### Testing Capabilities

For over 25 years Maxxam chemists have been analyzing samples for:

- Major gas constituents such as oxygen and nitrogen
- Minor gas constituents such as carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, methane, halogenated hydrocarbons, nitrous oxide, nitrogen dioxide, anaesthetic agents, dew point, and oil & particulates

### Quality Systems

Maxxam has a strong Quality Management System (QMS) which encompasses both quality assurance and quality control. More than 30 people are employed on Maxxam's Quality Assurance (QA) team as Regional Managers, Specialists and Coordinators. QA staff are responsible for carrying out the monitoring, documentation and training required by the company's QMS. To ensure independence, integrity and effectiveness of their functions, these employees report to the National Director of Quality, who reports directly to Maxxam's CEO.

Maxxam is accredited for specific field of test or analysis by the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), Standards Council of Canada (SCC), and the Canadian Association for Laboratory Accreditation Inc. (CALA) as listed in the laboratory's current scope of accreditation. This accreditation involves a detailed laboratory facility audit with assessment of each accredited method/parameter every two years.

The laboratory also participates in proficiency programs as required by the AIHA, SCC, and CALA.

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For specific scope of accreditation, visit:

[www.aiha.org](http://www.aiha.org)

[www.scc.ca](http://www.scc.ca)

[www.cala.ca](http://www.cala.ca)

## Compressed Air Testing for Diving

Divers are particularly susceptible to underwater incapacitation, and post-dive or long-term health effects caused by low level carbon monoxide poisoning or gaseous contaminants generated within the compressor. Many low molecular weight volatile organic compounds have anaesthetic effects which are amplified due to pressure and nitrogen narcosis resulting in impaired judgement, lowered seizure threshold, and sensitisation of the heart to arrhythmias.

To ensure air purity, CAN3-Z180.1 and Z275.2 requires that air produced by breathing air systems must be submitted for purity analysis at least once every six months or as otherwise specified by the regulatory authority having jurisdiction.

## The Maxxam Advantage

Maxxam offers analytical services and solutions for compressed breathing air as part of our Industrial Hygiene group. Advantages of having Maxxam as your partner in science include the following:

- Free pick up and delivery within the GVRD, Kelowna, Victoria and Winnipeg
- Complimentary shipping is available to clients in Alberta
- Analysis prices include media
- Five day turnaround times are standard
- Assigned Scientific Liaisons and Technical Service Representatives

Maxxam is the Canadian market leader in analytical services and solutions to the energy, environmental, food and DNA industries and a member of the Bureau Veritas Group of companies – a world leader in testing, inspection and certification services. We support critical decisions made by our customers through the application of rigorous science and the knowledge and expertise of our over 2500 employees.

For more information, please email:  
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