



RISK ASSESSMENT GUIDE

For Recompression Facilities



Divers Alert Network®
4th Edition

RISK ASSESSMENT GUIDE FOR RECOMPRESSION FACILITIES

Fourth Edition

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Endorsed for the assessment of recompression facilities by

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Foreword

For the last 40 years DAN has led the movement to promote diver well-being by actively campaigning industry stakeholders and engaging communities around the world to advance safe practices.

One critical element of this work is DAN's engagement with recompression chamber facilities. In 1993 DAN developed the Recompression Chamber Network (RCN), an organization of hyperbaric chambers around the world that have both the capability and the willingness to treat injured scuba divers. Through the RCN, the availability of care for divers around the globe is enhanced.

The same year DAN established the RCN, it also created the DAN Recompression Chamber Assistance Program (RCAP) — a program that relies on tax deductible donor funding to ensure worldwide availability and safety of chambers capable of providing lifesaving care for divers.

The first edition of the Risk Assessment Guide for Recompression Facilities, released in 2000, was DAN's original compilation of guidelines and information to help chambers operate safely. The members of DAN's Risk Mitigation Team collectively have more than 25 years' experience in the design and manufacture of hyperbaric facilities, assisting in establishing recompression facilities, evaluating safety practices and providing operational training at more than 125 such facilities world-wide and active participation on international panels of experts, codes and standards. This unique, in-depth knowledge allows us to contribute in very real ways. We are thus able to continually evaluate the current and most effective industry practices for hyperbaric medical care.

I am proud to share this fourth and latest edition of the Risk Assessment Guide for Recompression Facilities as part of our ongoing work to foster safe diving communities. This guide is focused purely on the technical, operational and safety aspects of recompression chamber facilities.

We encourage you to adopt a culture-of-safety mentality and join DAN in working toward our vision of making every dive accident- and injury-free.

William Ziefle

President and CEO, Divers Alert Network

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RISK ASSESSMENT GUIDE FOR RECOMPRESSION FACILITIES

General

Scope

This risk assessment guide is intended to apply to recompression facilities worldwide that are technically equipped to deliver emergency treatment to recreational scuba divers suffering from decompression illness (DCI).

The scope of this guide is focused on the technical, operational and safety aspects of recompression facilities. Medical decisions related to the treatment of injured divers remain subject to professional medical judgment and the availability of therapeutic resources.

Purpose

The primary purpose of this guide is to provide a means of assessing whether an existing facility complies with minimum safety requirements for the treatment of injured scuba divers.

In addition, it is also intended as a safety guide for the following purposes:

- to provide guidance in the acquisition of a new recompression facility; or
- to provide guidance for modifications or additions to an existing facility.

Basis

The basis for the compilation of this guide was a thorough analysis of the risks that are inherent to the following situations:

- the exposure of humans to hyperbaric pressures;
- the restrictive nature of recompression facilities;
- the fire and explosion hazards associated with hyperbaric equipment;
- the multitude of associated mechanical and physiological hazards; and
- the hazards inherent in operating potentially dangerous machinery.

Each of these risks has been considered in the light of actual quantifiable risks and of minimum measures required to mitigate, remove or acceptably contain potentially hazardous situations.

Applicable Statutes and Regulations

The operation of pressure vessels for human occupancy, the operation of dangerous machinery and general occupational health and safety provisions are commonly controlled by regional or national statutory or regulatory provisions.

Neither this guide nor any other single document, code of practice or set of operating instructions can supersede the requirement to comply with such provisions. All applicable statutes, regulations, standards, bylaws and other regulatory instruments take legal precedence over the recommendations contained within this guide.

Many countries do not prescribe safety standards. This guide, originally commissioned by International DAN (IDAN), has been specifically compiled to facilitate safety assessments of recompression facilities that are located where safety standards are lacking — or as a supplement to applicable statutes and regulations.

[Appendix A](#) contains a list of the regulatory and guidance documents that were consulted in the compilation of this guide. Please note, however, that this guide does not claim to comply either in part or in whole with any or all of these documents.

Also, the listed documents typically apply to facilities that deliver a wide range of services and therapies, not just recompression services and only the issues and risks relevant to recompression facilities have been considered here.

Explanatory Notes

A risk is based on these three factors: 1) the probability that 2) an exposure to a hazard will result in 3) harmful consequences.

The risk is higher where there is greater probability that an event will occur, greater the frequency of exposure to a hazard and/or greater the severity of the consequences.

Unless all three of these factors are present, no risk exists.

A *hazard*, by contrast, is a potentially harmful situation or agent. A *risk* results from exposure to a *hazard*.

The terms *hazard* and *risk* tend to be used interchangeably in many documents. In this document, however, *risk* refers to the probability of an adverse event, whereas *hazard* refers to the harmful situation itself.

The process of assessing risks associated with recompression chamber (RCC) facilities commences with a review of the impact of hazards associated with RCCs. The table below provides a description of each of the potential hazards and its associated risks.

Table 1: Identified Hazards Associated with Recompression Facilities

Hazards	Potential Risks
<p>Fire and explosion hazards</p> <p><u>Note:</u> Fire prevention is critical in RCCs, because fire-suppression techniques are limited in their effectiveness in the presence of high oxygen (O₂) partial pressures.</p>	
<p>General issues</p>	<p>Fire requires the presence of three elements: fuel (a combustible or flammable material), an oxidizing agent (usually oxygen [O₂]) and a source of ignition (either heat or energy).</p> <p>Under hyperbaric conditions, the reactivity of the oxidizing environment is greatly increased due to the elevated partial pressure of the O₂.</p> <p>Any leakage of O₂ into a chamber due to improper or ineffective seals in the breathing apparatus will dramatically increase the O₂ partial pressure, especially in a chamber with a small internal volume.</p> <p>The flammability of materials increases as the partial pressure of O₂ increases, to the point where normally non-combustible materials may become flammable or combustible. And the partial pressure of O₂ increases as a chamber's internal pressure increases, irrespective of whether the O₂ percentage also increases or not.</p> <p>If the O₂ concentration in a chamber exceeds 23.5% or more (i.e., meets the generally accepted definition of an O₂-enriched atmosphere) at an elevated total pressure, flames spread rapidly.</p> <p>All RCC fires with survivors have occurred in chambers with an O₂ percentage below 23.5%.</p> <p>The heat of combustion rapidly increases the pressure in any contained environment, meaning the internal pressure within a chamber can soon exceed its intended or safe working pressure.</p> <p>The results of a RCC fire thus include depletion of the O₂ in the chamber, the production of toxic gases and other fire by-products, the combustion of human tissue and overpressurization of the chamber.</p> <p>Many of these risks are also present in non-hyperbaric O₂-enriched settings and thus apply to any situation where the O₂ concentration can increase within a confined space.</p>

Hazards	Potential Risks
Sources of fuel	<p><u>Note:</u> This analysis is limited to materials generally not considered to be combustible and to materials whose combustion behaviour could be dramatically different in a RCC than under normal circumstances.</p> <p>Many materials either require a very high temperature for ignition or do not burn in air at atmospheric pressure.</p> <p>Such materials include certain types of flame-resistant fabrics, silicone rubber, polyvinyl chloride, asbestos-containing paint, glass fiber, polyamides, epoxy compounds, certain asbestos blankets and lubricants.</p> <p>Such materials, however, all burn vigorously in an O₂-enriched environment.</p> <p>Examples include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flammable anesthetizing compounds. • Human tissue, hair, oils and fats. • Loose cotton garments, such as those commonly used in hospitals; they can be totally destroyed within 20 seconds in a 100% O₂ environment. • Oil-based or volatile cosmetics (e.g., facial cream, body oil, hair spray, etc.). • Fabrics that are liable to become super-combustible if tiny air spaces between the fibers become saturated with O₂ during a RCC treatment. <p>Even after such fabrics are relocated to an atmospheric air environment, if they are ignited, they will burn almost as rapidly as if they were still within an O₂-enriched environment.</p> <p>This risk remains until sufficient time has elapsed for the O₂ to diffuse out of the fibers and be replaced by air.</p>
Sources of ignition	<p>The following list is not exhaustive, but it illustrates some of the known but less obvious sources of ignition: defective electrical equipment, high-voltage monitoring or radiological equipment, heated surfaces in broken vacuum tubes or lamps (even lamps used for illuminating diagnostic equipment), hot-wire cautery or high-frequency electrocautery devices, open or arcing switches, overheated motors, brushed motors, bare defibrillator paddles and electrical thermostats.</p> <p>The more obvious sources include the following: lighted matches or tobacco products, static sparks from attire made of synthetic materials, noncompliant electrical wiring and oil-contaminated materials (which present a spontaneous heating hazard).</p> <p>In O₂-enriched environments, the minimum energy required for ignition is much lower than is the case in atmospheric air environments.</p>

Hazards	Potential Risks
Mechanical hazards	
Potential energy	<p>Even small volumes of compressed gas represent a large amount of potential energy.</p> <p>Should such energy be released suddenly, the effects on adjacent structures and personnel can be devastating.</p> <p>Such a release can occur as a result of a failure of the vessel or its piping.</p>
Deviation from code or standard	<p>Such a hazard may be created if the vessel is modified in a manner contrary to the original code or the design and construction standards employed in its manufacture.</p>
Access restrictions	<p>Any restrictions on access into or out of a vessel can create a hazard in case of a fire or other emergency. For example, rescue or firefighting personnel could be hindered from entering a chamber to render aid. Or occupants could be hindered from escaping from a chamber.</p> <p>Either instance represents a serious threat to occupants' lives.</p>
Visibility	<p>Any restrictions on chamber operators' ability to see clearly into the vessel reduce their effectiveness as safety monitors.</p>
Sealed or semisealed containers	<p>Certain containers may present hazards in a RCC, as they may collapse or rupture during changes in pressure.</p> <p>Examples of such containers include ampoules, stoppered bottles, capped bottles (e.g., multidose vials or glass intravenous infusion sets) and pneumatic cushions used for breathing masks or for positioning patients.</p> <p>Any air-filled containers taken into a chamber that are not adequately vented may either collapse under pressure (possibly resulting in adiabatic heating of the contents and thus representing a fire or explosion risk) or explode upon resurfacing if the gas trapped within the container cannot escape during ascent.</p>
Other hazards	<p>Other risks related to mechanical hazards include the malfunction, disruption or inoperativeness of many standard items when they are used under hyperbaric conditions.</p> <p>Such risks include the implosion of lamps or vacuum tubes (e.g., cathode ray tubes in medical monitors); the overloading of fans due to higher gas density; and inaccurate operation of flow meters, pressure gauges and/or regulators.</p>

Hazards	Potential Risks
<p>Physiological and medical hazards</p> <p><u>Note:</u> As noted on page 1 in the description of this guide’s scope, medical considerations remain subject to professional medical judgement.</p> <p>The only hazards thus included in this section are those that may arise as a result of mechanical, electrical or other safety malfunctions.</p>	
General hazards	These include electric shock and a fouling of the atmosphere in a RCC with carbon dioxide (CO ₂), carbon monoxide (CO), pyrolysis products from overheated materials or toxic products generated during combustion (e.g., cyanide or chlorine).
CO ₂	Should a chamber’s ventilation or air exchange system malfunction or prove inadequate, CO ₂ levels could rise to toxic levels due to the increased atmospheric pressure.
Rapid depressurization	<p>A rapid release of the pressure in a chamber can lead to shock waves, noise and/or loss of visibility due to condensation inside the chamber.</p> <p>Rapid depressurization may occur if the relief valve is activated due to overpressurization.</p>
Noise	During compression and subsequent ventilation, noise levels for the occupant can be uncomfortably high.

Not all risks carry the same consequences or need for urgent attention. It is thus deemed prudent to use a risk level (RL) rating scale, as outlined in the table below (and detailed in [Appendix B](#)):

Table 2: Risk Level and Associated Mitigating Requirements

RL	Risk Rating	Requirements
5	Very high	<p>Attention and risk mitigation are critical and must be given highest priority.</p> <p>A potentially dangerous situation may exist, with the possibility of very serious or catastrophic consequences in the event of an adverse incident.</p> <p>Treatment activity should stop immediately and should not recommence until effective mitigation is in place.</p>
4	High	<p>Attention and risk mitigation are required and must be given high priority.</p> <p>A serious situation may exist that could endanger people or equipment or that could seriously disrupt or jeopardize the business.</p> <p>Solutions or actions that may mitigate the risk should be considered, at the discretion of the <i>responsible person</i> (see below for a definition of this term as used in this guide) and they should be recorded in writing.</p>
3	Medium	<p>Attention to the risk is required.</p> <p>Eventual exposure to this risk could likely result in an incident. Outcomes could include business disruption, financial or liability consequences, injuries or equipment damage.</p> <p>Mitigation of the risk should be accomplished within practical time and cost considerations.</p>
2	Low	<p>Attention to the risk is recommended for the optimal functioning of the facility.</p> <p>Risk mitigation steps already in place should be recorded in writing.</p>
1	Very low	<p>The risk is acceptable.</p> <p>Note should be taken of the risk, but either it has already been suitably mitigated or its impact is of justifiably low significance.</p>

These suggested risk levels have been determined through an assessment of risk as described in the Explanatory Notes on page 2. [Appendix B](#) provides an indication of the applicable risk levels, based on the quantification of relative risk.

However, risk levels may vary on a case by case basis, as a result of the following factors: 1) the type or nature of the facility; 2) the degree of qualified discretion allowed by national or local authorities and 3) a determination by the *responsible person* of whether a risk is relevant.

The term *responsible person* as used in this document refers to a facility's owner, manager or safety officer. In most countries, it is mandatory under occupational health and safety regulations to effect this appointment in writing.

The term *competent* as used in this document to describe an individual should in all cases be assumed to mean a person who is competent to perform or certify an activity by virtue of their training, knowledge and experience. This applies especially to the design, manufacture, testing, inspection, installation, management and/or operation of hyperbaric facilities or equipment.

The term *specialist* as used in this document should be assumed to include *competent* persons, professionally qualified experts (e.g., fire engineers or electrical or electronic engineers) and representatives of organizations recognized as specialists in a particular field.

Suggested Risk Assessment Process

The example on the next page illustrates a suggested method for applying the risk assessment process described in this guide.

The process begins with an assessment of the risks that affect a given RCC facility. The risks need to be identified as applicable or deemed relevant by the *responsible person*. Guidance as to the importance of each risk thus identified is offered in the form of a risk level. The actual risk level may differ, as the *responsible person* deems relevant in the situation.

This is followed by a detailed physical evaluation of the facility regarding its conformance to relevant minimum requirements. The facility's technical aspects are described in section A - Construction and Equipment; the operational aspects in section B - Administration and Maintenance. A facility's *responsible person* should describe in detail how each applicable minimum requirement has been complied with.

If compliance with national or local regulations is required, but either no such regulations exists or any regulations that do exist are considered inappropriate for a RCC facility, the *responsible person* should comply with the appropriate guidelines detailed in [Appendix A](#), in the "System Guidance Documents" and/or "System Standards" sections.

If a *specialist* suggests that exceptions to the minimum requirements are acceptable, these exceptions should be recorded in writing, together with any motivating considerations and presented to the facility's owner or manager for acceptance and endorsement.

In preparation for a safety assessment or an external review, this process should be undertaken in writing, especially as it relates to an assessment of actual or likely risks and to compliance or noncompliance with minimum applicable requirements.

This process should also be followed when any change in the status of a facility's equipment is anticipated — i.e., prior to the modification of existing equipment or to the acquisition of new equipment. A RCC treatment facility is an integrated unit, meaning that even small changes to certain items may have a significant impact on its overall operational safety.

Examples of risk assessment

Element: Access to bilges (typically RL 3)

Step 1: Identification of risk: Is the chamber fitted with a bilge area?

If the answer to Step 1 is “yes,” then the minimum requirement is that adequate access is required to enable the area to be cleaned and disinfected regularly. A build-up of dust and/or other waste materials represents a risk of both fire and adverse health effects.

Step 2: Application of minimum requirement(s) to address, remove or mitigate the risk.

If the answer to Step 1 is “no,” then no requirement applies.

Comments:

In cylindrical chambers, deck plates are generally used to provide more comfortable standing space, as well as drainage space for condensed moisture, spillage and, if applicable, fluid from a fire extinguishing system.

The area below the deck plates is called the bilge area.

It is preferred that deck plates be firmly secured for grounding, stability and noise reduction purposes. However, the plates need to be installed in such a way that they can be readily removed to permit adequate cleaning.

If the minimum requirement(s) cannot be met, the *responsible person* may exercise discretion by, for example, removing noncompliant deck plates.

The deck plate design could also be modified to allow for easier removal or lifting of the plates. Or alternative cleaning techniques could be considered.

In all cases where such discretion is employed, it must be recorded in writing, endorsed by the owner or manager and preferably filed together with the completed compliance document.

Element: Chamber room lighting (typically a Risk Level 3)

Step 1: Identification of actual risk:

Ultraviolet light results in deterioration of the chamber acrylic windows. Direct sunlight, mercury vapour discharge and certain types of fluorescent lighting are known sources of detrimental UV radiation.

Step 2: Application of minimum requirement(s) to address, remove or mitigate the risk:

Multiplace chamber windows should not be exposed to direct sunlight. Where fluorescent lighting is preferred, this lighting should be selected on the basis of an appropriate UV spectrum range (with only UV radiation with a wavelength above 320 nm being released at more than 30 cm (1 ft) from the lamp).

Comments:

All forms of fluorescent lighting, including the compact fluorescent lamp (CFL), produce UV radiation.

UV radiation is classified in 3 main ranges, based on wavelength in nanometers (nm):

UVA: ±320 – 400 nm: the least harmful and almost negligible at distances of 30 cm (1 ft) and further.

UVB: ±290 – 320 nm: in sufficient quantities, causes sunburn and cancer. It also degrades acrylic windows.

UVC: ±100 – 290 nm: the most hazardous range to humans; typical used in germicidal applications.

The glass tubes used in incandescent, fluorescent and CFL lamps absorb almost all UV radiation. At distances greater than 30 cm (1ft), the amount of harmful UV light is negligible.

Metal vapour lamps, specifically metal halide and mercury lamps can produce sufficient UV light in the UVB range to degrade acrylic materials.

Where the minimum requirement cannot be met, the safety officer may exercise discretion by, for example, installing UV filters (covers, screens and films) between the source of UV radiation and the chamber acrylic window.

In all cases, where such discretion is employed, this must be expressed in writing, endorsed by the owner or user and preferably filed together with the completed compliance document.

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A. Construction and Equipment			
Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements

A-1. General Housing

1) Applicable standard for RCC facilities	The risks associated with this hazard include fire safety, building safety, mechanical equipment safety, personnel safety and operational safety.	3	<p>a) National statutes, regulations or standards and local bylaws or ordinances should be followed, especially as to fire safety and building and general facility matters.</p> <p>3 b) Chapter 14 of NFPA 99 (the National Fire Protection Association code pertaining to RCCs) addresses all pertinent risks on a thoroughly integrated and comprehensive basis; it is specifically relevant to hyperbaric facilities and should be used for additional guidance.</p> <p>Alternatively, any of the following standards may be used: ABS (American Bureau of Shipping), LR (Lloyd's Register) or AS/NZS 2299 (Australian/New Zealand Standard).</p>
2) Room housing the RCC	The use or storage of any equipment unrelated to the chamber room could compromise the safety of the facility and impede emergency evacuation.	3	<p>Any room housing a chamber should be large enough to ensure unrestricted access to all controls, viewports, piping systems and for egress in an emergency.</p> <p>The room should be for the exclusive use of the hyperbaric operation.</p>
3) Supporting foundations for the RCC	Inadequate supporting foundations for a RCC could cause a failure of the building's support structure, especially during on-site hydrostatic testing.	4	<p>All foundations for a RCC should be strong enough to support the chamber during all intended operations, including hydrostatic pressure testing.</p> <p>(Note: This requirement may be reduced if the chamber can be removed should any welding or other repairs or modifications be required or if pneumatic pressure testing is allowed.)</p> <p>It is preferable to locate a chamber in a ground-floor location.</p>

A. Construction and Equipment

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
4) Fire protection of the rooms housing the chamber & ancillary equipment	<p>A fire in a chamber or an equipment room may endanger any or all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The facility's staff and patients, both inside and outside the chamber; b) The operators (in addition, a fire may prevent them from remaining at their posts during an emergency termination and evacuation process); c) The chamber and its ancillary equipment; d) The continued operation of ancillary equipment (thus preventing safe termination of the treatment); and/or e) In some cases, the remainder of the building. 	<p>3</p> <p>3</p>	<p>a) Local and/or national statutes, regulations, bylaws and ordinances pertaining to fire safety in RCCs should be followed; protection should extend not just to the room containing the chamber, but also to associated treatment areas and ancillary equipment rooms.</p> <p>The protection should encompass fire-extinguishing capabilities, fire-resistant construction and isolation doors (typically, rated for 2-hour fire-resistance).</p> <p>Certification of compliance with such provisions should be obtained from the relevant local authority.</p> <p>b) An automatic wet sprinkler system remains the preferred fire-suppression option.</p> <p>If such a system is not deemed to be required, at least two portable fire extinguishers should be strategically located within the room.</p>
5) No-smoking signs	Any source of open flame presents a hazard in a location where the possibilities of high O ₂ concentrations exist.	4	No-smoking signs should be clearly displayed both within and outside any RCC facility and a strict no-smoking policy should be enforced within the unit.
6) Communications capabilities	Even in the event of an emergency, an operator should never leave a RCC. But without an effective communications link with outside services, an emergency would require an operator to leave the control panel, thus losing contact with and sight of the patient.	5	All RCCs should be linked to an emergency control center by means of an alarm, intercom system or telephone.

A. Construction and Equipment			
Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
7) Lighting (UV)	<p>UV light with a wavelength of less than 320 nm, referred to as UVB and UVC radiation, causes deterioration of a chamber's acrylic windows.</p> <p>Direct sunlight, mercury vapor discharge and certain types of fluorescent lighting are known sources of harmful UV radiation.</p>	3	<p>Acrylic windows in a RCC should not be exposed to direct sunlight or any form of harmful UV radiation.</p> <p>If fluorescent lighting is used in a RCC area, the bulbs used should have a wavelength above 320 nm (referred to as UVA wavelength).</p>

A. Construction and Equipment

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
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A-2. Design and Construction

1) Design of a RCC	The utmost care must be taken in the initial design of a RCC, because once a unit is constructed and installed, structural changes to the pressure vessel are exceedingly difficult to carry out in complete safety.	3	<p>During the design of a RCC, all aspects of the chamber's operation relevant to its intended use should be considered — e.g., internal size, layout, number of occupants, storage shelves and bracketry and maximum working pressure.</p> <p>It is recommended that RCCs be rated to a working pressure of at least 20 msw (66 fsw).</p>
2) Safety standards	<p>The use of inadequate, inappropriate and/or unsuitable safety standards can compromise operator, patient and/or facility safety; can compromise the safety of the entire health-care facility; and can result in noncompliance with relevant statutes and regulations.</p> <p>Pressure vessels are classified as hazardous equipment.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>3</p>	<p>a) Chambers should be designed to meet the requirements of any of the internationally accepted and applicable safety standards, as well as any relevant national statutes or regulations.</p> <p>Care should be taken to ensure that the selected standards are applicable to pressure vessels for human occupancy (especially with regard to viewport design).</p> <p>The ASME PVHO-1 (American Society of Mechanical Engineers' Pressure Vessels for Human Occupation) standard, which dovetails with NFPA regulations, is the preferred standard.</p> <p>b) In addition, an internationally accepted life-support standard should be used to determine requirements for chamber equipment, ancillary equipment, levels of redundancy, safety system equipment and maintenance, all as applicable to the intended use of the chamber.</p> <p>Examples of such standards include AS/NZS 2299, ABS and LR.</p>

A. Construction and Equipment			
Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
2) Safety standards (cont.)		4	<p>c) All chambers, viewports and ancillary equipment, including the installation thereof, should be inspected and certified as compliant with the relevant standard(s) by an approved inspection authority.</p> <p>The facility should retain a copy of the certification documents so that appropriate, regular inspections and tests can be carried out.</p>
3) Chamber flooring	Structurally unsound flooring may distort or shift, causing patients and/or medical personnel to trip or fall.	3	Flooring should be capable of supporting all equipment, personnel and patients consistent with the intended use of the chamber.
4) Flooring materials	Certain flooring materials present risks of fire or falls.	4 4	<p>a) Flooring should be non-combustible.</p> <p>b) Non-slip surfaces should be employed.</p>
5) Access to bilges	Restricted access to a chamber's bilge area can hinder adequate cleaning of the area, resulting in a buildup of lint, dust and human waste thus an increased fire and health risk.	3	If deck plates are fitted in place, adequate access to the entire bilge area should be provided to make effective cleaning and disinfecting of the area possible.
6) Securing of chamber flooring	Improperly secured flooring can be unstable and electrically unbonded flooring can cause a break in electrical grounding.	3	<p>Any flooring should be securely installed so as to prevent its movement and so as to ensure electrically conductive integrity.</p> <p>(Note, however, that whatever method is used to secure the flooring should not restrict its removal for cleaning purposes.)</p>
7) Paint colour of RCC	Certain colors may elevate patients' anxiety and dampen internal light levels.	1	<p>Care should be exercised in selecting paint colors for a RCC.</p> <p>Colors that have a calming effect and that enhance internal light levels are preferred.</p>
8) Internal surface treatment of finish of RCC	Finishes that are chemically unstable, flammable or otherwise unsuitable in a pressurized environment present both health and fire risks.	3	The interior of a chamber should either be untreated (e.g., if it is made of stainless steel) or be treated with a nontoxic, corrosion-inhibiting, low-flammability paint that is suitable for human occupancy and hyperbaric pressure applications.

A. Construction and Equipment

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
9) Paint fumes	Initial off-gassing from a painted surface can present a health risk.	4	No chamber should be used within the first 72 hours after application of an internal surface treatment, unless otherwise specified in the relevant material safety data information issued by the paint manufacturer.
10) Sound proofing materials	Certain sound-deadening materials represent a risk of fire.	3	If sound-deadening materials are used within a RCC, such materials should be flame-resistant.
11) Sufficient number of viewports or access ports	Inadequate allowance for visibility and access during the initial design and manufacture of a chamber may result in impaired ability to observe patients and/or may compromise the safe installation of monitoring and treatment equipment.	3 3	a) The initial design of a chamber should include a sufficient number of viewports and equipment access ports for piping, equipment and monitoring leads. b) A suitable guide is to allow for at least 50% excess capacity of access ports or penetrations.
12) Weatherproofing of electrical access ports	If access ports and electrical penetrators have not been adequately weatherproofed, there may be a risk of electrical shock, short-circuiting or equipment damage during activation of an internal or external deluge system and/or during cleaning.	4	All electrical circuits should be housed in weatherproofed enclosures capable of withstanding a deluge from the fire protection system, the application of cleaning solutions and/or any precipitation to which the chamber might be exposed.
13) Viewport design	The design and maintenance of viewports are critical to safety and yet fall outside the scope of many international design and construction codes.	3 3	a) Viewports should be designed to meet the requirements of a safety standard that makes specific provision for nonmetallic, pressure-bearing structures. b) The service life requirements defined by a relevant safety standard should be followed. ASME PVHO-2 allows for a service extension based on a visual inspection by a <i>competent</i> person for use in a protected service environment.

A. Construction and Equipment			
Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
14) Care of viewports	Certain cleaning fluids and UVB or UVC radiation may cause viewport deterioration.	4 3	<p>a) Care should be exercised to ensure that correct cleaning procedures are enforced.</p> <p>b) Chamber viewports should not be exposed to direct sunlight or any other source of UVB or UVC radiation or to any direct source of heat.</p> <p>The ASME PVHO-2 standard provides guidance on the care and use of acrylic viewports.</p>
15) Seats, bunks and other fixtures	Fixtures and furnishings installed in a chamber may introduce into the environment flammable materials, mechanical hazards and/or a source of electrostatic charges or discharges.	3	Seats, bunks and other fixtures should, whenever possible, be fabricated using nonsparking and non-combustible materials, be free of sharp edges and corners and be designed for ease of installation and removal.
16) Pressure-relief provisions	<p>Overpressurization of a chamber can result in a risk of mechanical damage or fire.</p> <p>Inadequate venting capacity of relief valves is a hazard that can lead to overpressurization.</p> <p>Malfunctioning relief valves can compromise the safety of a chamber's occupants.</p>	5 3 3	<p>a) Relief valves should conform to the relevant construction standard and should be sized so that no situation can exist whereby gas can be introduced faster than it can be discharged.</p> <p>b) The reseal pressure limit should be no lower than 7% below the set pressure and this function should be tested regularly.</p> <p>c) Relief valves should be fitted with isolating valves internally and externally to allow them to be shut off in the event of a malfunction.</p> <p>Valve handles should be wired in the open position using breakable safety wire.</p>

A. Construction and Equipment

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
17) Chamber pressure gauges	<p>If either occupants or operators of a chamber are unable to read the pressure gauges, it may affect the quality of treatments as well as the safety of the occupants.</p> <p>If gauges are incorrectly installed, controlled and/or maintained, they may not function accurately or effectively.</p>	4	<p>a) All chamber compartments should be fitted with an independent pressure gauge that can be read by an external operator.</p> <p>This is usually achieved by mounting the gauge on the control panel.</p>
		4	b) Treatment locks should be fitted with internal caisson pressure gauges or at least a suitable means of informing the occupants of the lock pressure.
		3	<p>c) All gauges should be accurate and repeatable, should have scales appropriate for the expected pressure range (i.e., with normal treatment pressure in the middle third of the readout), should be of a size suitable for easy readability (i.e., no smaller than 150 mm [6"] in diameter) and should be precise to a degree medically appropriate for measuring treatment pressures.</p> <p>Clinical hyperbaric O₂ treatment chambers are not usually used for high-pressure treatments, which require accuracy during decompression.</p> <p>An accuracy of $\pm 0.5\%$ of the gauge's full scale or better, is sufficient for chambers with treatment pressures under 3 ATA. Gauges used with pressures above this level should comply with the industry standard of $\pm 0.25\%$ of the full scale.</p>
		4	d) Pressure gauge lines should not supply any other devices.
		4	e) Internal ports for gauge lines should be protected with a shield to prevent inadvertent blockages.
		3	f) All systems should be correctly cleaned prior to use and regularly checked for leaks.

A. Construction and Equipment			
Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
17) Chamber pressure gauges (cont.)		3	g) Gauges should be tested and validated at least once a year to provide assurance of proper function and accuracy.
		3	h) In the event of any doubt, of gauge indicators that appear to be sticking, of mechanical damage or if specified by the manufacturer, gauges should be retested more frequently than annually.

A. Construction and Equipment

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
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A-3. Illumination

1) Location and design of lighting	<p>Lighting fixtures not designed for hyperbaric applications present a serious risk of explosion, implosion and/or fire.</p> <p>There are also risks if the maintenance and inspection requirements for such fixtures are not followed.</p>	3	<p>The preferred location for mounting RCC lights is on the outside of the chamber.</p> <p>However, interior use of lighting fixtures may be considered if the fixtures are designed to be pressure-proof (or pressure-compensatory and explosion-proof) and are certified by a <i>competent</i> design authority as suitable for use inside a RCC.</p>
2) Elevated temperatures caused by external lights	<p>If external lights are used in conjunction with viewports, excessive surface temperatures can compromise the integrity of the viewport lens material.</p>	4	<p>Lighting fixtures should be designed in accordance with the requirements of a suitable standard that includes provisions regarding viewports.</p> <p>The temperature rating of the specific viewport material should be considered during the design of fixtures.</p>
3) Sealing materials for internal lights	<p>The elevated surface temperature of internal lighting fixtures can cause pressure increases that may lead to a premature failure of the lights' seals.</p> <p>This constitutes a risk of both fire and structural failure.</p>	3	<p>Gasket and o-ring materials in such applications should be fire-resistant, appropriately temperature-rated and designed and selected so as to accommodate movement due to thermal expansion.</p> <p>Fully captured or confined sealing enclosures should be specified.</p>

A. Construction and Equipment

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
4) Internally installed lights, including portable medical examination lights	Electrical resistance lights are a source of heat and if they are not suitably protected when used inside a RCC, there is a risk that they may provide sufficient energy for ignition.	<p>4</p> <p>4</p> <p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>2</p>	<p>Internal lighting fixtures in a RCC should meet the following requirements:</p> <p>a) They should have an external operating surface temperature of less than 85°C (185°F);</p> <p>b) They should be rated for a pressure of at least 1½ times the chamber's maximum working pressure;</p> <p>c) They should be located away from areas where they may be physically damaged; and</p> <p>d) They should be designed for such applications and that fact should be certified by a <i>competent</i> design authority.</p> <p>It is recommended that high-intensity local task lighting be provided using through-hull fiber-optic devices.</p>
5) Portable medical examination lights	Portable lighting fixtures carry an additional risk that they may shatter or explode if they're dropped or accidentally damaged.	4	<p>All externally powered portable lighting units should be of a self-contained, vented and shatterproof design.</p> <p>The design should be in accordance with a recognized and applicable standard and certified as such.</p>
6) Emergency lighting	<p>An illumination failure in a chamber without adequate backup lighting can lead to risks for both patients and medical personnel.</p> <p>In addition, any emergency responders will be hampered in their ability to act, leading to additional risks.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>3</p>	<p>a) Chambers should be fitted with a sufficient number of lighting fixtures so there is suitable redundancy in the event that one fixture fails.</p> <p>If a chamber has sufficient viewports, external room lighting may be sufficient to provide backup illumination.</p> <p>b) Lighting power circuits should be connected to the chamber's emergency power supply.</p>

A. Construction and Equipment

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
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A-4. Gas Supply Systems, Ventilation and Air Conditioning

1) Air pressurization system	Insufficient air capacity for nonroutine or emergency treatments can compromise patient care during inadvertent power breaks that affect the compressor.	5	a) Air compressors and storage vessels should be designed with sufficient capacity to complete a maximum-duration medical treatment, including pressurization and to supply the maximum, continuous ventilation demand.
	Excessive moisture can affect the ability of filtration systems to work effectively.	3	b) Compressed air systems should be fitted with after-coolers to ensure that excess condensate is removed prior to storage.
	Condensed moisture can also influence control valves and result in accelerated corrosion in storage vessels.	3	c) Compressors should be fitted with inlet filters capable of removing airborne particles larger than 10 µm in size.
	In addition, environmental particulates above a certain size can result in damage to the compressor's gas flow path.	2	d) It is recommended that automatic drains be fitted to all filter housings.
2) Piping systems	Certain piping materials are not suitable for hyperbaric facilities due to impurities and/or corrosion considerations.	4	a) In most cases, only copper alloys, brass alloys or stainless steel alloys should be used for supply systems to a RCC (see below for permissible exceptions). Materials for RCC exhaust systems are required to be O ₂ -compatible but are not otherwise restricted.
	Undersized piping systems can affect patients and facility staff by prolonging treatments unnecessarily, restricting extraction of patients during emergencies and generating excessive noise.	3	b) Supply piping systems should be designed to deliver and maintain compression rates between the ideal of 18 msw/min (60 fsw/min) and a minimum of 2.4 msw/min (8 fsw/min). The industry average is 10 msw/min (33 fsw/min).
		3	c) Exhaust systems should be capable of bringing the chamber from 20 msw (65 fsw) to surface pressure in no more than 6 minutes.

A. Construction and Equipment

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
2) Piping systems (cont.)	Venting systems can cause injuries to patients if inlets are not suitably screened.	4	d) All exhaust inlets, relief valves, depth monitoring inlets, sample inlets and other suction inlets inside the chamber should be fitted with anti-suction injury devices.
		2	e) All shell penetrations should be fitted with internal and external isolating valves, as close to the penetration as possible, to allow the gas flow to be shut off in the event of a malfunction.
		4	f) Piping systems should be configured with an escape valve device, so that occupants of the chamber can override the controls in the event of operator failure and return the chamber to surface pressure.
	The use of high-pressure supplies can result in the overpressurization of piping and/or other components, beyond their rated levels. Inadvertent overpressurization can also occur if the control equipment fails or if the operator fails to control pressures correctly.	3	g) Chambers should be pressurized using only regulated, low-pressure gas. Note: High-pressure gas supplies, i.e., those greater than > 4 MPa (580 psi), should be reduced as close to the source as practical.
	Dirt particles are a known source of the failure of regulators to maintain constant downstream pressure.	4	h) All pressure-reducing regulators should be fitted with downstream pressure-relief devices in order to protect any piping and/or other components that are rated for lower pressures. i) The inlets on all pressure-reducing regulators should be fitted with suitably sized particle filters (< 10 µm) to prevent dirt or debris from entering the sensing ports and causing downstream regulator creep.

A. Construction and Equipment

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
2) Piping systems (cont.)	System designs that rely on operator attentiveness to prevent certain actions — including back-filling of storage vessels at different content levels, reverse-pressure or -flow situations (especially on systems with diaphragms and/or sensing equipment) and venting through unintended flow paths — can compromise supplies, lead to an inaccurate assessment of available gases and/or result in the failure of pressure-control equipment.	3	j) The piping of supply systems should be fitted with nonreturn (check) valves to prevent the following actions: inadvertent back-filling of storage vessels; exposure of regulators and/or other components to reverse-pressure situations if they were not designed for such applications; and venting through self-venting ports on pressure-reducing regulators.
	Inappropriate or inadequate cleaning procedures can result in premature component failure or the introduction of toxic vapors into the chamber and can increase the risk of fire.	3	k) All air-system components and piping should be suitably cleaned prior to their first use.

A. Construction and Equipment

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
2) Piping systems (cont.)	<p>Due to more frequent connection & disconnection and/or an intrinsically weaker structure, flexible hoses are more prone to failure due to mechanical damage, surface abrasion, material age- or environmentally related degradation and cracking and weakening of end fittings.</p> <p>Any of these can result in a rapid and even catastrophic failure, with the associated expansion-related damage, unrestrained hoses whipping around and cause significant damage.</p>	3	<p>l) In selected cases, the use of flexible hoses for RCC supply systems is acceptable, subject to all of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be kept to a minimum, except for low pressure exhaust lines; • Preferably be restricted to short lengths: <1 m (3 ft) where used for HP, i.e. >4 MPa (580 psi) gas applications; • Where longer lengths need to be used, these should be fitted with restraints (anti-whip devices); • Be suitably rated and appropriately certified for the system design pressure; • Be consistent with cleanliness requirements and compatible with the gas they will transport; • Be connected without any stress on joints and couplings; • Be assembled without kinks or sharp bends; • Be adequately protected from external mechanical damage; • Not pose a trip hazard; • Be used only where adequate provision has been made for the regular inspection of the condition of all flexible hoses; and • Shut-off valves should be located as close to the chamber as is practical.
		3	<p>m) Consideration may be given to the use of a check valve in a flexible hose connected directly to a chamber, as a buffer in the event of a line break.</p> <p>Check valves or the ability to prevent backflow, may be an inherent part of the design of a chamber's control panel.</p>

A. Construction and Equipment

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
3) O ₂ supply volumetric or capacity considerations	Correct volumetric considerations are essential for providing effective treatments, as well as preserving the health care facility's other requirements.	3	<p>The system should be designed to ensure that the required volume of O₂ is available to provide for the full duration of the longest likely treatment provided.</p> <p>As a guideline, a supply system should be based on the product of maximum number of occupants, breathing at least 64 actual lpm (2.3 acfm) at depth (in ATA), for the complete treatment cycle for the maximum intended number of treatments between refilling periods.</p>
4) O ₂ supply and exhaust systems	<p>An inadequate supply of therapeutic O₂ can compromise a treatment regimen and thus negatively affect the outcome for the patient.</p> <p>Leakage of exhaled O₂ into the chamber presents a fire risk.</p> <p>The uncontrolled exhaust of exhaled gas (O₂ or air) from the breathing apparatus could lead to a significant risk of suction injury.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>4</p>	<p>The design of a chamber's supply and exhaust systems should meet the following criteria:</p> <p>a) It should be capable of ensuring a supply pressure of at least 0.35 MPa (50 psi) above the chamber's pressure to each outlet as otherwise required by the selected breathing apparatus;</p> <p>b) It should be equipped with emergency isolation valves, preferably fitted close to the shell;</p> <p>c) It should include sufficient capacity to permit treatments to be completed prior to refilling;</p> <p>d) In addition, a secondary (reserve) supply of O₂ should be available in the event that the main supply is interrupted;</p> <p>e) It should ensure that high-pressure supplies conform to the guidelines for a safe and controlled supply;</p> <p>f) It should ensure that the exhaust system is fitted with an effective overboard dump process, which automatically adjusts to the treatment pressure; and</p> <p>g) It should ensure that the exhaust system has been designed to restrict or control the flow between the patient and ambient pressure.</p>

A. Construction and Equipment

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
5) Cryogenic supply system	<p>Inadequate maintenance, poor housekeeping and/or lack of regular inspection of the cryogenic supply system presents a risk of fire, supply interruption and/or facility damage.</p> <p>Even if the filling and maintenance of the system are handled by an outside vendor, a RCC's owners and managers still bear responsibility for ensuring the integrity, safety and availability of the system.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>3</p> <p>3</p>	<p>If a RCC has a cryogenic supply system, it should conform to all applicable statutes and regulations, should be controlled and managed by a <i>competent</i> gas supply company and should be properly maintained, at a minimum with respect to these factors:</p> <p>a) The security of the site, to prevent unauthorized access or interference with the system;</p> <p>b) Routine monitoring of fire hazards, such as removal of under or overgrowth, overhead electrical supply lines or burnable materials (including waste matter) stored in the immediate vicinity of the system;</p> <p>c) The placement and integrity of adequate warning signs and emergency instructions;</p> <p>d) Regular inspections (at least prior to each treatment session) of the cryogenic storage area, including monitoring of liquid/gas storage levels, system pressures, control positions, equipment condition and site security; and</p> <p>e) Appropriate and regular maintenance by an appointed, <i>competent</i> gas supply company.</p>
6) O ₂ purity standards	Impure or contaminated O ₂ is both a health as well as a fire risk.	4	<p>a) Medical O₂ requires a purity level of at least 90%.</p> <p>Under no circumstances should a RCC use O₂ that is not either piped from a cryogenic source, supplied from high-pressure cylinders certified as containing medical-grade O₂ or provided using a suitable medical O₂ generator.</p>

A. Construction and Equipment

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
6) O ₂ purity standards (cont.)		3	<p>b) If a RCC cannot be guaranteed of a suitably pure supply of O₂, the supply to the chamber should be analyzed by one of these means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuously while online; At the discretion of a <i>competent</i> person, who shall substantiate in writing the requirements for the frequency of the analysis; or At the very least, whenever supplies are changed over or refilled.
7) O ₂ piping	<p>Compressed O₂ represents a risk of fire and other effects of its stored energy.</p> <p>Inappropriate or inadequate cleaning procedures can result in premature component failure or the introduction of toxic vapors into the chamber and can increase the risk of fire.</p> <p>Certain materials are not suitable for use with O₂.</p> <p>In the event of a fire, the O₂ supply to the chamber would likely exacerbate the fire.</p> <p>Rapid-acting valves are a potential source of adiabatic heating during opening and closing.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>4</p> <p>4</p> <p>4</p> <p>4</p> <p>3</p>	<p>O₂ piping should be designed and installed according to the following minimum requirements:</p> <p>a) Only <i>competent</i> and thoroughly trained individuals should install, clean or work on O₂ piping systems;</p> <p>b) If copper tubing is brazed, it should be continuously purged with nitrogen (N₂) during the brazing process to prevent the formation of hazardous copper oxides;</p> <p>c) All O₂ supply lines should be cleaned in accordance with an approved O₂ cleaning procedure;</p> <p>d) Only O₂-compatible materials should be used (publications of the ASTM [American Society for Testing and Materials], CGA [Compressed Gas Association] and ASME/PVHO contain lists of approved materials);</p> <p>e) An O₂ shut-off valve should be installed at the point where the O₂ enters the room;</p> <p>f) Quick acting ball valves should not be used to isolate lines containing O₂ at pressures > 0.86 MPa (125 psi);</p> <p>g) The pressure in any O₂ supply lines to the chamber should be visible from the control panel;</p>

A. Construction and Equipment

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
7) O ₂ piping (cont.)	<p>The use of high-pressure supplies can result in overpressurization of piping and other components not designed for elevated pressures.</p> <p>High pressures can also be introduced inadvertently if control equipment fails or if an operator fails to control pressures correctly.</p>	3	h) High-pressure O ₂ supplies, i.e. those > 4 MPa (580 psi) should be reduced at their source or, if that is impractical, at the chamber control station;
		3	i) All pressure-reducing regulators should be fitted with downstream pressure-relief devices in order to protect piping and other components rated for lower pressures;
		3	j) The discharge from any safety-relief device(s) should be connected to an exhaust line piped into a safe open space (i.e., it should not terminate near a source of heat, an ignition source or a hazardous area);
	<p>Dirt particles are a known source of the failure of regulators to maintain constant downstream pressure.</p> <p>System designs that rely on operator attentiveness to prevent certain actions — including back-filling of storage vessels at different content levels, reverse-pressure or reverse flow situations (especially on systems with diaphragms and/or sensing equipment) and venting through unintended flow paths — can compromise supplies, lead to an inaccurate assessment of available gases and/or result in the failure of pressure-control equipment.</p>	4	k) The inlets on all pressure-reducing regulators should be fitted with suitably sized particle filters ($\leq 10 \mu\text{m}$) to prevent dirt from entering the sensing ports and causing downstream regulator creep;
		3	l) O ₂ supply systems should be fitted with nonreturn (check) valves to prevent the following actions: inadvertent back-filling of storage vessels; exposure of regulators and/or other components to reverse-pressure situations if they were not designed for such applications; and venting through self-venting ports on pressure-reducing regulators;
		3	m) Following installation and at prescribed maintenance intervals, all O ₂ piping should be tested for leaks (caution should be exercised when using testing solutions that are flammable or not O ₂ -compatible); and
		3	n) Only special, dedicated tools should be used for O ₂ service (i.e., they should be clean and nonsparking).

A. Construction and Equipment

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
8) Conditioning of chamber air	<p>Uncomfortable temperatures within a chamber can compromise the patient's condition and may increase the percentage of O₂ in the chamber.</p> <p>Uncomfortable conditions can also heighten patients' anxiety levels, cause medical problems and affect the control of static electricity.</p>	2	<p>Chambers should be maintained at a temperature under 30°C (86°F) and a relative humidity between 50% and 70%.</p> <p>This may be achieved through the use of ventilation using suitably conditioned air.</p> <p>Alternatively, suitably designed and approved chamber environmental conditioning units may be used.</p>
9) Ventilation requirements	<p>Inadequate ventilation can have an impact on patients' conditions, allow a buildup of O₂ and/or CO₂ and affect the temperature and humidity in the chamber.</p> <p>Such conditions increase the risk of fire and/or toxic gas levels, as well as of other risks associated with elevated temperature and humidity.</p> <p>Such risks exist during all stages of chamber operation, including pressurization, a constant-pressure state and depressurization.</p> <p>Poorly placed inlet and exhaust points may also result in inadequate circulation and ineffective removal of unwanted gases.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>2</p>	<p>a) A minimum ventilation rate of at least 64 actual lpm (2.3 acfm) per chamber occupant is required (<i>actual</i> flow implies the rated flow at the chamber's ambient pressure and temperature).</p> <p>This rate may be reduced if CO₂ levels are monitored continuously or if patients are breathing O₂ using an overboard dump system, providing that O₂ levels remain below 23.5%.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> The ventilation rate may need to be increased above this recommended level if no overboard dump system is present or if the overboard dump is not effective, in order to keep O₂ levels below 23.5%.</p> <p>b) Inlet and exhaust points should be located so as to ensure effective air circulation, scrubbing-out of unwanted gases, lowering of the RCC's internal temperature and reduction of humidity levels.</p> <p>c) Stable conditions may be maintained using metabolic O₂ injection and scrubbing to remove CO₂ and odor levels.</p> <p><u>Warning:</u> Under no circumstances should a chamber's interior O₂ level be allowed to exceed 23.5%.</p>

A. Construction and Equipment			
Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
10) Internal breathing apparatus	<p>Toxic, nonbreathable and harmful gases constitute a serious hazard for occupants of a chamber.</p> <p>An ineffective supply of therapeutic gas can compromise the quality of the treatment and affect the outcome for the patient.</p>	4	Each occupant should be provided with an individual breathing apparatus.
			The apparatus, including its supply system, should be designed to meet the following criteria:
		4	a) It is available for immediate use at all times;
		4	b) It is independent of the chamber atmosphere;
		4	c) It can be used simultaneously by all occupants;
		5	d) It is fully functional at all chamber operating pressures; and
11) External self-contained breathing apparatus	<p>In the event that the air in the vicinity of a chamber becomes fouled by smoke or other combustion products, the chamber operator may (due to the complexity of the treatment then in process) be unable to depressurize the chamber and evacuate the occupants to safety.</p> <p>In such a case, the operator faces the risk of breathing the fouled air unless an external self-contained breathing apparatus is available.</p>	4	e) In the event of a fire, the supply can be switched to air (or a suitable, normoxic mixture).
			<p>An independent source of breathing air or a suitable filtered breathing apparatus should be available for use by essential chamber personnel in the event that the air in the vicinity of the chamber is rendered toxic, is fouled or otherwise becomes unbreathable.</p> <p>Suitable eye protection to shield chamber personnel from combustion products should be incorporated into the breathing apparatus.</p>

A. Construction and Equipment

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
12) Sources of air for a chamber	Toxic, flammable or fouled air can be introduced into a chamber's air source by means that may be beyond the control of the facility's owner or manager.	5	Compressor intakes should be located so that toxic, flammable or fouled air cannot be introduced into a chamber's system. (Typical sources of fouling include vehicular activity, internal combustion engines, other mechanical equipment and building exhaust outlets.) Warning signs should be posted at the locations of all compressor intakes.
13) Handling of air for a chamber	Unsuitable or malfunctioning air-handling equipment can contaminate the air supply to a chamber. Contamination with oil or other hydrocarbons (HCs) presents a particular hazard in O ₂ -enriched environments.	4	The air supplied to a chamber should be monitored as detailed in section A-7. Communications and Monitoring, subsection 8, Chamber air-supply monitoring (see page 40). Efforts should be made to ensure that all known causes of contamination are eliminated by following correct maintenance procedures and by conducting regular inspections of compressor seals, air purification devices and compressor intakes and filters.
14) Compressor air intake	Inappropriately located and/or inadequately sized air-intake piping can lead to excessive air intake resistance or a starving of the compressor This may result in reduced air output and pressure, overheating, excessive oil consumption and damage to the compressor.	3 3	a) The introduction of any form of resistance to the flow of air, including remote location of a modified inlet filtration system without instruction or approval from the compressor manufacturer, should be avoided. b) Any extension of an intake hose should account for the added flow resistance.

A. Construction and Equipment

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
14) Compressor air intake (cont.)		3	<p>c) As a general rule these criteria should be followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The internal diameter of an intake hose should be increased by at least 6.35 mm (¼") for each 3 meters (10 feet) of extension, applied to the complete length of the hose; • If 90-degree bends or other similar flow restrictions need to be used, the internal diameter of the complete intake hose should be increased by 6.35 mm (¼") for each bend and no more than four bends are recommended; • Provision should be made at the connection to the existing compressor intake to drain any condensate that might accumulate in the hose and run into the compressor intake; • The inlet to the extension hose should be covered with mesh to prevent insects or debris from being drawn in and the opening should also face downward to avoid any direct rain from entering the hose; • The use of any form of filter at the inlet to the extended hose should be avoided; and • The manufacturer's requirements and recommendations, if available, always take precedence.

A. Construction and Equipment

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
15) Use of an oil-lubricated compressor	<p>If a chamber is served by an oil-lubricated compressor, a failure of the air-treatment package, inadequate maintenance procedures or a failure of the compressor system could introduce oil and/or other HCs into the chamber's air supply.</p> <p>This presents a major risk of fire, especially in an O₂-enriched environment.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>3</p>	<p>a) If a chamber is served by an oil-lubricated compressor, it should be fitted with an air-treatment package specifically designed to produce breathing air (Appendix C).</p> <p>b) Air-treatment packages on oil-lubricated compressors should be fitted with automatic safeguards to ensure either that contamination cannot occur or, if it does, that the air-supply system will shut down before the contamination can reach the chamber.</p> <p>c) Oil-lubricated compressors and associated air-treatment packages should be diligently monitored and maintained.</p>
16) Redundant air-supply capability	<p>A failure of a chamber's air-supply system, especially during a life-threatening emergency treatment, can seriously compromise the patient's condition and the efficacy of the treatment.</p>	3	<p>a) Air-supply facilities should consist of two or more individual systems, each with sufficient capacity to maintain the required flow rates on a continuous basis.</p> <p>This requirement may be met by using one large compressor, typically with a low-pressure (LP) rating and one standby compressor, typically with a high-pressure (HP) rating, which can be used to fill an adequately sized high-pressure storage tank.</p> <p>Other acceptable options include two low-pressure compressors; two suitably sized high-pressure compressors; or a large supply of stored air.</p>

A. Construction and Equipment			
Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
16) Redundant air-supply capability (cont.)		4	b) At least one system should meet the pressurization and ventilation requirements of the full duration of any intended treatments. The standby system should meet the requirements of the full duration of the longest table used for treatments of life-threatening conditions, for example a USN TT 6 (U.S. Navy Treatment Table 6) with full extensions.
		3	c) Each compressor should be supplied from a separate electric branch circuit.
17) Sound attenuation	A chamber environment contains numerous acoustic factors that serve to magnify noise levels.	3	a) Mufflers should be used to reduce noise to the levels required by national regulations or at least below 85 dB(A).
		3	b) Noise levels during maximum flow situations, including emergency ascents, should be considered and verified.
		2	c) Reverberation should be reduced through the use of baffling panels.
		4	d) If noise levels cannot be effectively reduced (such as during pressurization), personal ear protection should be provided to all chamber occupants.
18) Power-operated or automatic chamber control system	Automatic control systems may provide better control and allow the operator to focus on the patient rather than the controls. In the event of any system failures, the chamber and the occupants may be placed at risk from rapid ascent or descent. This could also affect occupants being locked in the chamber.	4	The chamber operator must therefore have the means to override or deactivate the control system to manually control the chamber. This should include descent, ascent, ventilation rates, as well as maintaining the chamber at constant treatment pressure. Isolation valves and an emergency escape valve should be available for the inside tender in a chamber.

A. Construction and Equipment

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
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A-5. Fire Protection

1) Fire-suppression system	A fire within a hyperbaric chamber presents a potentially fatal and catastrophic situation.	5	a) At a minimum, all RCC's should be fitted with a portable hyperbaric fire extinguisher, rated for the maximum treatment depth.
		3	b) An independently supplied deluge system and a handline fire-suppression system are the preferred fire protection and prevention options.
2) Unsuitable means of fire extinction	<p>Certain generally accepted methods of extinguishing a fire are not suitable or effective within a hyperbaric, O₂-enriched environment.</p> <p>A chamber operator should not be expected to have to contact fire and/or emergency services manually if an emergency situation occurs either within the chamber or in its immediate vicinity.</p>	5	a) Fire blankets, CO ₂ extinguishers and other fire-extinguishing devices that rely on air exclusion are either unsafe or ineffective in an O ₂ -enriched environment and thus should not be installed in or carried into a chamber.
		5	<p>b) A fire alarm and/or emergency signalling device should be provided at the operator's console so that the nearest health-care facility and/or fire department can be contacted directly.</p> <p>A direct alarm/monitoring system coupled to the fire department is preferable.</p>

Note: There are additional requirements regarding fire protection that apply only to RCCs with a deluge system.

Since those requirements are not mandatory for facilities without a deluge system, they have been included in [Appendix D](#).

A. Construction and Equipment			
Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
A-6. Electrical Systems			
1) Electrical regulations	<p>The presence of electrical wiring and equipment within RCCs presents several critical risks, including fire.</p> <p>It is essential to precisely follow local electrical regulations during construction and/or renovation of a RCC, as they are devised to meet local operating and supply conditions.</p>	4	<p>NFPA 70, the National Electrical Code, contains applicable regulations that have been considered by the NFPA 99 committee.</p> <p>All electrical work on a RCC should adhere to either this code or, at a minimum, to local electrical regulations applicable to alternating current (AC) distribution and wiring.</p>
<p><u>Note:</u> In general, the only electrical circuits that should be installed inside a RCC are those for hyperbaric communications equipment and patient monitoring leads.</p> <p>The requirements for all other electrical devices are contained in Appendix E; it contains mandatory requirements, as well as comprehensive guidance for the selection, approval and installation of electrical devices and cabling.</p>			

A. Construction and Equipment

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
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A-7. Communications and Monitoring

Warning: Ordinary communications equipment is not suitable for use within a chamber due to the potential for sparking from switches and arcing from microphones, both of which represent a distinct risk of fire.

Communications and monitoring equipment are mandatory for the safe operation of a chamber; therefore such equipment must adhere to special provisions.

Note: Requirements for electrical systems, including those that supply communications and monitoring equipment, are detailed in section A-6. Electrical Systems (page 37).

Compliance with those requirements is mandatory to assure safety.

Requirements for fire detection and protection, as distinct from communications and monitoring, are detailed in section A-5. Fire Protection (page 36).

1) External communications equipment	Electrical equipment — including power amplifiers, output transformers and monitors — is generally capable of producing electrical discharge.	5	All such equipment should be installed for use only outside a chamber.
2) Internal communications equipment	Low-voltage and low-power equipment is capable of producing sparks. And of even greater concern is the fact that it is capable of overheating under fault conditions.	4	The requirements detailed in Appendix E , section 18) Use of low-voltage, low-power equipment (page 96) should be followed.
3) Communications between operator and occupant(s)	A breakdown in communications between the operator and the occupant(s) of a chamber can incur risks involving chamber operation, fire, occupant safety and/or the outcomes of the medical therapy that is in process.	5	a) A continuous, clearly audible communications link between the operator and all RCC locks should be in place whenever the chamber is in use.
		3	b) It is further recommended that the following be in place: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A multi-channel system, with discrete (closed-circuit) operator-attendant circuits, for discussion of sensitive patient issues; and
		3	• A sound-powered telephone or emergency communications system (e.g., surveillance microphones).
		4	c) Communications channels between the locks and the control panel should be kept open at all times.

A. Construction and Equipment			
Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
4) Individual patient communication devices	Individual patient microphones are contained within the O ₂ delivery system and are therefore exposed to 100% oxygen — and thus may represent a direct source of ignition.	5	Where used, oxygen mask or hood microphones should be approved as intrinsically safe at the rated pressure and in 100% oxygen environments.
5) O ₂ monitoring	<p>O₂ levels above 23.5% can increase flame propagation exponentially and are classified as highly dangerous.</p> <p>If diluent gases are introduced, O₂ levels below the safe partial pressure for a specific chamber pressure can result in a hypoxic environment.</p> <p>Chambers that are large (i.e. a diameter greater than 1.8 m [6 ft]), a treatment lock longer than 3 m (10 ft), that are designed for more than six occupants) or that are designed with restricted interior air flow (i.e., limiting the immediate dilution of gases) may retard the ability of O₂ analyzers to indicate the actual average O₂ levels present in the environment.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>3</p> <p>5</p>	<p>a) O₂ levels should be monitored at all times.</p> <p>Visual and audible alarms should indicate O₂ concentrations above 23.5% or below 19.5%.</p> <p>b) Monitoring should preferably occur at two or more treatment lock locations, especially in larger chambers, with one sample point located near the ventilation outlet or the chamber's exhaust point.</p> <p>c) <u>Warning</u>: Chambers should not be operated with interior O₂ levels above the safe limit of 23.5%.</p>
<p><u>Note</u>: Treatments associated with commercial diving operations may require O₂ percentages below 19.5%. Since such treatments will be performed only under the direct supervision of a suitably qualified medical practitioner or life-support supervisor, the determination of allowable minimum levels in such cases is left to the discretion of the supervising individual and accepted and safe diving practices.</p>			
6) CO ₂ monitoring	<p>CO₂ levels can build up during a long treatment involving little or no ventilation. High CO₂ levels are dangerous and can potentiate O₂ toxicity.</p> <p>CO₂ intoxication can be insidious and thus difficult to discern.</p>	3	<p>If ventilation is not (or cannot be) used, CO₂ levels within the chamber should be monitored continuously.</p> <p>Visible and audible alarms should indicate CO₂ concentrations above the safe surface equivalent value (SEV) relative to the treatment depth.</p>

A. Construction and Equipment

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements																				
7) Combustible gas monitoring	Where flammable gases are used within a chamber, any leak or compromised gas-discharge circuit will create an immediate explosion hazard.	5	Flammable gases should not be used in a chamber.																				
8) Chamber air-supply monitoring	<p>There are two possible sources of contamination of the chamber's air supply — contaminants in the ambient air and those added by the gas-compression equipment.</p> <p>If oil-lubricated compressors are used or if compressor intakes are positioned in areas that could be polluted by motor vehicle exhausts, toxins, oil vapor or other HC contaminants can be rapidly introduced into the chamber's air supply.</p> <p>Toxic gases such as carbon monoxide (CO) can compromise the health of chamber occupants.</p> <p>Oil vapors and other HC contaminants represent a known fire risk in an O₂-enriched environment.</p> <p>Any air used in a piping system that is also used to convey O₂ requires additional attention due to the elevated fire risk.</p>	<div>4</div> <div>4</div> <div>2</div> <div>5</div> <div>5</div>	<p>a) All compressors should be fitted with suitable air-treatment packages capable of producing air safe for breathing purposes.</p> <p>b) Air should be sampled for possible contaminants (CO₂, CO, H₂O, oil and particulates) at least every six months.</p> <p>c) Automatic safeguards should be considered where volatilized HCs and CO could be present, especially where oil-lubricated compressors are used.</p> <p>d) The required minimum specifications for breathing air are detailed in Appendix C and can be summarized as follows:</p> <table><tr><td>O₂</td><td>20% to 22%</td></tr><tr><td>H₂O</td><td>Based on actual supply (storage) pressure (see Appendix C)</td></tr><tr><td>CO₂</td><td>< 500 ppm_v</td></tr><tr><td>CO</td><td>< 5 ppm_v</td></tr><tr><td>HCS</td><td>< 0.5 mg/m³ for liquids (oil)</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>< 25 ppm_v for methane (CH₄)</td></tr><tr><td>Particles</td><td>< 0.5 mg/m³ for particles > 5µm</td></tr><tr><td>Odor</td><td>Nil</td></tr></table> <p>e) The required minimum specifications for HCs in medical air or O₂-compatible air (OCA), for use in RCCs whose built-in breathing system (BIBS) may be supplied with breathing air, are detailed in Appendix C and can be summarized as follows:</p> <table><tr><td>HCS</td><td>< 0.1 mg/m³ of liquids (oil)</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>< 25 ppm_v of CH₄</td></tr></table>	O ₂	20% to 22%	H ₂ O	Based on actual supply (storage) pressure (see Appendix C)	CO ₂	< 500 ppm _v	CO	< 5 ppm _v	HCS	< 0.5 mg/m ³ for liquids (oil)		< 25 ppm _v for methane (CH ₄)	Particles	< 0.5 mg/m ³ for particles > 5µm	Odor	Nil	HCS	< 0.1 mg/m ³ of liquids (oil)		< 25 ppm _v of CH ₄
O ₂	20% to 22%																						
H ₂ O	Based on actual supply (storage) pressure (see Appendix C)																						
CO ₂	< 500 ppm _v																						
CO	< 5 ppm _v																						
HCS	< 0.5 mg/m ³ for liquids (oil)																						
	< 25 ppm _v for methane (CH ₄)																						
Particles	< 0.5 mg/m ³ for particles > 5µm																						
Odor	Nil																						
HCS	< 0.1 mg/m ³ of liquids (oil)																						
	< 25 ppm _v of CH ₄																						

A. Construction and Equipment			
Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
8) Chamber air-supply monitoring (cont.)			<p><i>Note: The maximum limits for water vapor in compressed air for HP cylinder storage are as follows:</i></p> <p>< 62 ppm_v (50 mg/m³) for pressures between 4 - 20 MPa (580 - 2900 psi); and</p> <p>< 44 ppm_v (35 mg/m³) for pressures between 20 - 30 MPa (2900 - 4350 psi).</p>
<p><u>Note:</u> Prior to deciding on a suitable location for a compressor intake, it is recommended that the air be sampled at the intake location at a time when maximum impurities are expected to be present.</p> <p>At the discretion of the <i>responsible</i> person, a hyperfiltration system (which ensures CO levels of < 2 ppm_v and oil content levels of < 0.1 mg/m³) may replace the requirement for continuous monitoring, as long as filter replacement schedules are strictly followed.</p> <p>Periodic sampling of such air (i.e., every six months) remains a requirement.</p>			
9) Commercially supplied gases	<p>It is possible to procure certified gases that have not been analyzed.</p> <p>Commercially supplied gases may contain contaminants in particulate form which present a fire risk in the piping systems and an explosion risk in the chamber.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>3</p>	<p>a) The <i>responsible</i> person should ensure that any commercial companies supplying certified gases have an adequate quality control system.</p> <p>Random sampling is strongly recommended to ensure quality.</p> <p>b) Piping systems used to transfer gases from commercially supplied cylinders or containers should be fitted with particulate filters rated at ≤ 66µm.</p> <p>This does not replace the requirement to use particulate filters rated at ≤ 10µm) at pressure regulator inlet ports.</p>
10) Visual monitoring of the chamber interior	If a dangerous or emergency situation develops, inadequate surveillance of the chamber interior from the operator's normal position can compromise the operator's response and thus the occupant's safety.	2	It is standard practice in the industry to employ closed-circuit TV monitoring if direct visual monitoring of the chamber interior is not possible from the operator's normal position.

A. Construction and Equipment

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
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A-8. Other Equipment and Fixtures

1) Permanently installed furniture	<p>Ungrounded permanent furniture and other fixtures electrically isolate occupants, thus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> enhancing the buildup of static electricity (a potential cause for concern in chambers with an O₂ concentration of more than 23.5%); and reducing the effective functioning of a chamber's electrical protection and safety systems. 	3	All permanently installed furniture should be grounded.
2) Exhaust systems	Two risks may be associated with inadequate exhaust systems — increased noise and increased O ₂ concentrations at the O ₂ overboard dump system's outlet.	<p>3</p> <p>3</p>	<p>a) Exhaust should be piped outside the building, to a location that is clear of nearby hazards and where re-entry of exhaust gases back into the building is unlikely.</p> <p>b) Exhaust exit locations should be clearly identified with signage that prohibits smoking or any open flames in the immediate vicinity.</p>

B. Administration and Maintenance

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
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B-1. Procedural Requirements

Note: This section is not intended to provide exhaustive detail regarding administrative requirements for RCCs.

It is assumed, at a minimum, that RCCs will be managed by suitably qualified personnel who will follow all applicable local and national statutes and regulations.

The additional minimum requirements listed here are intended to offer some degree of further guidance to ensure a basic level of chamber safety.

Attention to detail is the most important precept in mitigating the risks associated with a RCC; that axiom should be stipulated in the facility's operating procedures and all administrative and maintenance personnel should be regularly reminded of it.

Warning: RCCs are medical devices, so their operation must be overseen by medical director. In addition, diving systems fall under the relevant nation's occupational health and safety regulations, requiring operation by competent technical staff. Military installations are often governed by a different set of regulations, which may or may not exclude any civilian liability.

1) Standards	Minimum standards are required to ensure effective and safe operation of the facility.	4	a) RCC services that meet the needs of injured divers and other patients, as determined by the nature of the facility, should be available for use either at all times or within a reasonable notification period.
		4	b) Facilities should be organized, integrated, staffed and directed commensurately with the scope of the services offered.
		3	c) The scope of services (medical and technical) should be clearly defined. This is essential to allow for proper transfer and referral of patients.
		2	d) The facility's patient-support capabilities (e.g., ability to administer IV infusions or ventilator support, to take vital signs or to use a defibrillator) should be appropriate for the level of service provided.
2) Personnel	The administration of hyperbaric therapy must be done by <i>competent</i> and thoroughly trained staff in order to ensure patients'	4	a) RCC facility staff should be suitably trained and competent, appointed in writing, provided with clear responsibilities and delegated with the appropriate authority.

B. Administration and Maintenance			
Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
2) Personnel (cont.)	safety, the efficacy of treatments and the responsible practice of medicine.	4 3	b) A registered and suitably qualified dive medicine practitioner responsible for all medical activities, or a suitably qualified designate, should be available throughout all treatments. c) In addition, a suitably qualified and appointed safety officer should be delegated responsibility for safety. This person, who may also be a supervisor or chamber operator, should be involved in all aspects of planning, regulations and use of the facility
3) Responsibility	The safety of a hyperbaric facility is affected by the conditions and practices in and around the unit, as well as, if applicable, in the health-care facility in which it is located. If responsibility for those conditions and practices is not clearly assigned, it can put the safety of the chamber at risk.	4 3	a) The ultimate responsibility for the care and safety of a RCC's patients and personnel lies with the owner and/or manager of the RCC facility. This person or organization should ensure that rules, practices and conduct regarding safety throughout the facility are effectively and formally delegated to <i>competent</i> and <i>responsible</i> people. b) In all cases, staff should follow regulations pertaining to the use of such facilities as mandated by relevant authorities.
4) Policies	Policies that fail to integrate and account for the sometimes-conflicting requirements detailed in national, regional and municipal statutes and regulations and in international guidelines and industry-specific equipment instructions can seriously compromise operational safety (e.g., there can be variation in matters such as the allowable oil-vapor content in compressed air or the allowable voltage in a confined space).	3	An integrated set of policies — mandating compliance with all applicable national, regional and municipal statutes and regulations, especially those regarding the use of equipment — should be established and enforced by suitably <i>competent</i> and experienced personnel.

B. Administration and Maintenance			
Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
5) Operating procedures	Inadequate, unproven and informal operating and safety procedures can present a serious risk to the safe operation of a hyperbaric facility, under both normal and emergency conditions.	3	Internationally accepted, qualified and proven procedures should be established, implemented and continuously monitored.
6) Implementation and compliance	Procedures that have not been correctly implemented or that are not followed and/or staff that have not been trained to understand and follow procedures, are likely to result in mistakes and/or oversights that can endanger the safety of both patients and staff.	5	a) A facility's owner or manager or where delegated, the medical director is responsible for ensuring that all staff receive appropriate training, follow operating and safety procedures and are <i>competent</i> to effectively fulfill their respective responsibilities.
		3	b) The owner or manager should ensure that periodic audits are conducted of the facility's operating and safety management systems.
7) Regular inspections of the chamber	If chamber operators fail to conduct regular pre- and post-treatment inspections of the chamber, risky situations could arise (e.g., patients taking hazardous items into the chamber, etc.).	4	A set of comprehensive pre- and post-treatment checklists should be established as part of the treatment log. This will ensure that the operator is reminded to perform the necessary safety, cleaning and system checks before and after each and every treatment.
8) Patient transport and referral procedures	A failure to establish procedures for when and how a patient is transferred elsewhere could place the patient at risk and could open a facility to liability.	4	Procedures should be established regarding when and how to transport emergency cases to or from the hospital, if the RCC is not attached to a full-service medical facility. Self-standing or independent RCC facilities should not undertake stabilization or extended care of emergency cases.

B. Administration and Maintenance

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
9) Rules and regulations	<p>A lack of adequate training, discipline, contingency planning or adherence to procedures represents a risk to the facility, patients and staff.</p> <p>Lack of sufficient responsible and trained staff also represents a risk.</p>	4	a) Clear rules and regulations for the operation of the facility, including the use of emergency equipment, should be established.
		5	b) All staff should be thoroughly trained in the implementation of these rules and regulations; such training should include regular follow-up sessions, hands-on training and regular emergency and fire drills.
		5	c) Treatments should be performed only under the direct supervision of qualified personnel who have appropriate training and experience.
		5	d) The chamber operator should remain physically present at the chamber console throughout every treatment, irrespective of any emergency that may occur.
		4	e) The owner, manager, medical director or safety office of the facility should ensure that discipline is maintained at all times. They are also responsible for contingency planning and training.
		5	f) All staff should be thoroughly trained and experienced in the use of emergency equipment and the execution of emergency procedures.
		4	g) The owner or manager should establish minimum staff qualifications and experience levels and staffing levels based on the nature and size of the RCC facility, as well as the type of treatments normally provided.

B. Administration and Maintenance			
Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
10) Proper documentation	Proper documentation for all hyperbaric treatments is necessary to avoid the legal ramifications that could arise from delivering unauthorized, unsuitable or ineffective treatments.	<p>4</p> <p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>3</p>	<p>These are the essential requirements for properly documenting a hyperbaric treatment:</p> <p>a) Completed indemnity and acknowledgement forms (i.e. patient consent).</p> <p>b) Chamber operator checklist.</p> <p>c) Patient records.</p> <p>d) Patient treatment log.</p> <p>e) Operational treatment log.</p>
11) Training	<p>Inadequately trained personnel, irrespective of their functions and responsibilities, can compromise the safety of patients, staff or the facility.</p> <p>They may react inappropriately during either normal operations or emergency situations.</p>	5	<p>a) All staff should be thoroughly trained to levels recommended by national regulations and should be drilled in all appropriate operational and emergency procedures as established by the <i>responsible person</i>.</p> <p>Thorough and internationally accredited training — such as those endorsed by any of the following - should be used to ensure that only competent personnel operate the facility and its equipment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Committee for Hyperbaric Medicine (EBAss) • European Baromedical Association (EBAss) • Hyperbaric Technicians and Nurses Association (HTNA) • National Board of Diving and Hyperbaric Medical Technology (NBDHMT) • Southern African Undersea and Hyperbaric Association (SAUHMA) • Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society (UHMS)

B. Administration and Maintenance

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
11) Training (cont.)		<p>3</p> <p>3</p>	<p>b) Trainees and other personnel without the requisite hours of practical experience should function only under the direct supervision of an appropriate technician, doctor or other qualified staff member.</p> <p>c) The safety officer in conjunction with a medical doctor, should establish the requirements for refresher training, especially for staff who are not engaged in providing treatments on a regular basis.</p> <p>The types of such training include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal qualifications (see section B-9. Medical Staff Qualifications – page 68): Unless specified otherwise by a governing body, refresher training should occur at least every two years. • Facility-specific training, including operational and emergency procedures: The frequency of such refresher training should be based on the frequency with which the staff member performs treatments and the number of drills held within a 12-month period. <p>Refresher training is required where staff members have not performed any treatment activities within the previous 12 months.</p> <p>In any case, refresher training should be conducted at least every two years.</p>
12) Direct heat sources	The presence of open flames, smoking materials and/or heated objects represents a serious hazard in a RCC environment.	5	Any object that could be a source of heat or UV radiation; that could trigger the chamber's fire detection system (if it has one); or that could degrade acrylic viewports should be specifically banned from RCC facilities — either within the chamber or in its immediate outside vicinity.

B. Administration and Maintenance	
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Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
13) Flammable gases or liquids	Flammable gases or liquids, especially in environments with elevated O ₂ levels represent a serious risk of fire, even after the completion of a treatment.	5 4	a) All flammable gases and liquids, including those contained in cigarette lighters and chemical hand warmers, should be forbidden inside the chamber, as well as near the intake to the facility's compressor(s). b) Alcohol-based pharmaceuticals should be permitted only if they are medically necessary; have been authorized by the health-care professional treating that specific patient; and have the specific consent of the facility's safety officer. The quantities of such products should be limited to an extent such that only an insignificant amount of flammable vapor could be released into the chamber environment. In addition, O ₂ monitoring procedures should be strictly followed and all sources of electrostatic spark discharge should be eliminated.
14) Overcrowding	Overcrowding of a chamber or its environs and/or the presence of nonessential personnel represent a risk to safe operations, patient privacy, as well as to the management of emergency situations.	3	Nonessential personnel should be kept out of all treatment areas. People accompanying patients should be restricted to designated waiting areas.

B. Administration and Maintenance

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
15) Textiles, toiletries and/or footwear	Certain fabrics represent a serious risk in hyperbaric environments, especially in the event of a fire.	3	a) Procedures should be in place to ensure that patients wear only approved garments, fabricated of 100% cotton or blend of cotton and polyester. Silk, wool and synthetic materials should be specifically banned.
	For example, synthetic materials tend to retain O ₂ in their closed-cell construction, creating a concentrated source of O ₂ .	3	b) Although most medical dressings do not pose a significant risk, substances such as petroleum jelly (Vaseline) or hook and loop fasteners (Velcro) should be avoided.
	Nylon undergarments can burn into the skin at high temperatures.	3	c) Garments should cover as much of the patient's skin as possible.
	Loose-fitting garments can incur the following risks:	4	d) Flammable hair sprays, hair oils, skin oils and cosmetics should be banned for all operating personnel as well as all patients.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They can make it difficult to determine whether patients are carrying hazardous items with them; 	2	e) If possible, any other fabrics used in a chamber should be treated with flame-retardant compounds or should be inherently flame-resistant.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They can compromise the wearer's safety in the event of a fire because they may retain trapped gas, expose skin and/or interfere with a deluge system's operation; and/or 	2	f) It is important to note that flame-retardant compounds often require regular reapplication, especially after washing. The instructions of the compound's manufacturer should be closely followed.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They can catch on equipment or protuberances. 	3	g) As a general rule, patients should be prevented from wearing their own shoes in the chamber.
	The use of fabrics such as blankets, sheets or drapes in a chamber represents additional fuel in the event of a fire.	4	h) Where this rule must be waived, the staff should ensure that no ferrous bearing items are present in their shoes, which may create sparks on aluminium deck plates.
	Certain personal toiletries or cosmetics represent a risk of fire.		
	Shoes that contain ferrous nails in the soles represent a risk of sparks and thus fire, especially in chambers with aluminum deck plates.		

B. Administration and Maintenance

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
<p><u>Note:</u> In addition to observing the requirements above, RCC owners and safety officers may want to consider the following recommendations to assist in further reducing risks, including the extent of potential injuries or the ability of staff to control the introduction of hazardous materials into the chamber:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Provision of dedicated garments, supplied by the facility, to patients before all treatments. Ideally, such garments will be snug-fitting cotton scrubs. b) Cleaning of any patients who have been contaminated with oil or grease (such as accident victims) before they put on the facility-supplied treatment garments. c) Assurance that the supplied garments either have no pockets or have had their pockets sewn shut. 			

B. Administration and Maintenance

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
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B-2. Emergency Procedures

1) Procedures for handling emergency situations	<p>It is often not possible for operating or attending staff to react effectively in an emergency unless they have received adequate training and support.</p> <p>Emergencies may be operational or technical in nature or may involve medical issues for patients or staff.</p> <p>Medical issues in patients are dealt with in subsection 2 below and in staff in subsection 3 below.</p>	5	<p>It is imperative that every RCC establish and document emergency procedures to ensure the safe completion of treatments and the safe evacuation of patients and staff in the event of an emergency as well as the effective handling of any potential emergency situation.</p> <p>The following are among the emergency situations that should be covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of primary air and/or O₂ supply; • Loss of back-up air and/or O₂ supply; • Contamination of air and/or O₂ supply; • Rapid increase or decrease in chamber pressure; • Fire inside or outside the chamber; • Fire inside or outside the compressor and/or gas storage areas; • Loss of power; • Failure of any chamber systems (lighting, communications, etc.); and • Activation of the deluge system (either accidentally or intentionally).
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B. Administration and Maintenance

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
2) Procedures for handling patient medical emergencies	Medical emergencies must be dealt with promptly to avoid fatalities and to prevent disabilities.	5	<p>It is imperative that every RCC establish and document emergency procedures to ensure that patient medical emergencies can be managed appropriately.</p> <p>The following are among the situations that should be covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • O₂ toxicity; • Arrhythmia or cardiac arrest (including defibrillation); • Pneumothorax; • Barotrauma (of the middle ears, sinuses, teeth, lungs or intestines); • Emergency myringotomy; • Arterial gas embolism; • Respiratory distress or bronchospasm; • Suspected hypoglycemia; • Vomiting; • Loss of consciousness; • Claustrophobia; and • Uncooperative or aggressive patients.
3) Procedures for handling staff medical emergencies	<p>Medical emergencies in staff should be dealt with in a standardized manner to prevent illness or injury that could result in disability or render the staff member unable to manage occupants of the chamber.</p> <p>Occupational injuries and diseases carry an additional legal risk for RCC owners and managers, and emergency procedures should take into account any specific legal requirements that may apply.</p>	5	<p>It is imperative that every RCC establish and document emergency procedures to ensure that staff medical emergencies can be managed appropriately.</p> <p>Many of the situations listed under patient medical emergencies above also apply to staff; these are among additional situations that should also be covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharps injuries; • Exposure to an infective fluid; • Occupational injury (e.g. barotrauma) or occupational disease (e.g. hearing loss or skin conditions); and • DCI.

B. Administration and Maintenance

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
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B-3. Equipment

1) Approved equipment	The use of noncompliant or unapproved equipment, instruments and devices represents a risk of explosion, implosion and/or fire.	4	a) Only equipment that is specifically compliant with the requirements of this document or that has been specifically approved for use within a RCC should be used in a chamber.
		5	b) All other equipment should be expressly prohibited from being taken into a chamber. This includes high-energy devices, photographic flashes, lasers, tablets and cellular phones.
2) Defective equipment	Defective equipment can compromise safety and hamper emergency responders.	4	Defective equipment and equipment suspected of being defective, should be withdrawn from use and repaired to the satisfaction of the delegated safety officer prior to being returned to the chamber.
3) Flammable items	Flammable items and substances include the obvious possibilities, as well as less obvious items like paper and lubricants, all of which represent a risk of fire.	5	Flammable items should be kept to an absolute minimum inside RCCs. Newspaper should be expressly prohibited, due to the volatile inks used by some papers.
4) Temperature ratings	Equipment with unsuitable temperature ratings can cause a fire or explosion.	4	All equipment intended for use in a chamber should strictly follow the chamber's temperature rating requirements. This matter requires particular vigilance by staff.
5) Compatibility with O ₂ equipment	Many items, if ignited within a pressurized, O ₂ -enriched environment, are not self-extinguishing.	4	a) Only approved, dedicated O ₂ containers, control mechanisms, interconnecting hoses and fittings, valve-seat materials and lubricants should be used in a chamber.
		3	b) International guidelines for determining the suitability of materials for O ₂ compatibility should be followed.

B. Administration and Maintenance

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
5) Compatibility with O ₂ equipment (cont.)		3	c) Static conditions and impact conditions are both applicable. ASTM and NFPA guidelines for designs using O ₂ -compatible materials should be followed.
6) O ₂ cleaning procedures	Contamination of O ₂ equipment presents a risk of fire or explosion.	3	All O ₂ equipment — including fittings, connections, gas handling equipment, etc. — should be O ₂ cleaned prior to use in a chamber. O ₂ cleaning requires special considerations and only approved procedures should be used.
7) O ₂ -compatible lubricants	HC-based lubricants are a known source of fuel in an O ₂ -enriched environment.	4	Only O ₂ -compatible lubricants should be used inside a chamber.
<p>Warning: Certain sealed devices (e.g., Tycos pressure bags) contain HC-based lubricants that are unacceptable for use in a chamber.</p> <p>Special O₂-compatible–lubricated units are available from Tycos.</p>			
8) Use of light metals	Light metals (e.g., cerium, magnesium and magnesium alloys) are capable of burning in air.	5	Any combustible light metals such as magnesium should be prohibited from being used within a chamber.
9) Use of radiation equipment	Any source of infrared, X-ray and gamma radiation makes a hyperbaric environment even more hazardous.	5	Radiation can ignite HC-based flammable gases with a concentration above 1000 ppm _v . If the use of such equipment is deemed absolutely necessary, an HC detector should be installed and if any flammable gases are detected the equipment should not be operated until the chamber atmosphere has been cleared.

B. Administration and Maintenance

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
10) Radiation exposure	<p>X-rays or gamma radiation can degrade acrylic windows.</p> <p>This risk is especially applicable if the source of radiation is located outside the chamber and the radiography is delivered through the viewport.</p>	3	<p>a) If acrylic windows will be exposed to any form of high-energy radiation, facility owners and managers should be aware that the service life of the window will be drastically reduced.</p> <p>The maximum allowed absorbed dose is 40 kilogray (kGy) (4 mega rad [mrad]).</p> <p>Exposure to X-rays or gamma radiation reduces window service life to three years.</p>
	<p>Direct sunlight is also a known source of harmful UV and infrared radiation capable of degrading acrylic windows.</p>	3	<p>b) Exposure to harmful UV or infrared radiation (e.g., from direct sunlight) also reduces the service life of acrylic viewports.</p> <p>In such cases, ASME PVHO-2 requires strict adherence to a maximum service life of 10 years.</p>

B. Administration and Maintenance

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
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B-4. Handling of Gases

1) Compressed gas standards	The storage and handling of compressed gases and the installation and cleaning of O ₂ and related piping systems, involve serious risk of fire and/or explosion.	3	a) The CGA Handbook of Compressed Gases provides minimum safety guidelines. The sections relevant to the storage and handling of all gases (e.g., compressed air, O ₂ , N ₂) should be followed within all RCC facilities.
		3	b) CGA G-4.1, Cleaning Equipment for Oxygen Service, provides minimum safety guidelines for cleaning O ₂ piping systems. This document or an alternative deemed appropriate by the <i>responsible</i> person should be followed.
		3	c) ASTM G-93-96, Standard Practice for Cleaning Methods and Cleanliness Levels for Materials and Equipment Used in Oxygen-Enriched Environments, provides further guidance on cleaning O ₂ piping systems.
2) Procedures for handling gases	Compressed gases represent a risk of both fire and explosion.	4	Only qualified staff should be permitted to operate or to work on gas-handling equipment.
3) Liquefied gases	Liquefied gases boil off rapidly and can change the composition of a chamber's atmosphere.	5	No gases stored in a liquefied state should be taken into a RCC.
4) Flammable gases	Flammable gases represent a severe risk of fire.	4	No flammable gases should be stored in or near a RCC facility or near any compressor intake(s).

B. Administration and Maintenance

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
5) Storage of gases	Large quantities of stored gas, especially O ₂ , elevate the risk in the event of a fire, especially if the storage containers are not regularly inspected for leaks, etc.	3	a) The amount of O ₂ stored in or around a RCC should be kept to the minimum required to complete treatments and to deal with emergency situations.
	Pressurized containers also represent a risk of explosion.	5	b) Pressurized containers should be taken into a RCC only if they are approved for such use, such as emergency gas supplies.
6) Use of non-flammable gases	Even non-flammable pressurized gases present risks unless sufficient control systems are in place.	3	Non-flammable gases required for use in a chamber should be piped into the facility. Shutoff valves accessible to staff members should be located at the points of entry to the room housing the chamber.

B. Administration and Maintenance

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
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B-5. Maintenance

1) Regular testing and calibration of equipment	Inadequate maintenance of O ₂ -handling equipment, chamber controls and safety equipment can result in equipment failure, representing risks for both operators and occupants.	3 3	a) The safety officer should be responsible for ensuring that all equipment is regularly checked and serviced. b) Pressure-relief valves, gauges and analyzers should be regularly calibrated.
2) Labeling of gas outlets	Inadequate labeling of O ₂ -system components, especially outlets, risks their not being identified during emergencies.	3	All essential controls on an O ₂ system, especially gas outlets, should be clearly labeled. It is also imperative that the gases delivered at every labeled outlet are checked prior to their first use (by reviewing the attached certificate[s] of analysis or, preferably, by continuous gas analysis).
3) Replacement parts	The use of nonstandard spares and replacement parts can result in premature equipment failure.	3	The safety officer should be responsible for ensuring that only manufacturer-authorized components are used during both initial installation and subsequent maintenance of all equipment.
4) Authorized work	All installation, repair and modification work to hyperbaric chambers and their associated equipment directly affects the safe function of the units.	3 3	a) The safety officer should ensure that only <i>competent</i> personnel perform repair and maintenance work and that all such work is performed according to the provisions of both legal requirements and the equipment manufacturers' manuals. b) All equipment should then be fully tested, and the results logged after any repair or maintenance work is performed.
5) Maintenance logs	A lack of operating and/or maintenance logs precludes adequate control of maintenance procedures, potentially resulting in premature equipment failure.	2	The safety officer should sign off on all maintenance procedures and ensure that logs of all operating and maintenance procedures are maintained.

B. Administration and Maintenance

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
6) Cleaning of filters	Blocked or partially blocked filters reduce efficiency of chamber operation, provide a risk where rapid decompression may be required and may introduce dirt and contaminants should filters fail as a result of excessive loading.	3 3 3	a) The chamber gas supply inlet filters should be cleaned or changed at least annually. b) Inlet filters for regulators, flow controls and the exhaust system require annual maintenance. c) Manufacturers' recommendations should be adhered to at all times.
7) System maintenance	Inadequate and/or incomplete maintenance can result in deterioration of systems below a level of optimal safety and readiness and/or failure of systems to a degree that could affect operational safety.	3	Adequate and effective systems maintenance requires that the following elements be addressed: a) Initial installation, repairs, additions and modifications to all equipment should be evaluated by <i>competent</i> personnel who have been appointed by the safety officer. This evaluation should include testing under pressure.

B. Administration and Maintenance

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
7) System maintenance (cont.)		3	<p>b) The safety officer should ensure that a comprehensive preventative maintenance process is in place.</p> <p>It should include the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periodic testing of all safety-related equipment (e.g. gauges, valves, meters, deluge systems, warning systems, etc.); • Checks of O₂ piping systems for leaks; • Checks that gas flows remain unobstructed; • Checks of all automatic drains (to ensure that no condensate is discharged, that drain valves have no blockages and that filter elements are not saturated); • Replacement of filters, lubricants and coolants; • Checks of fluid levels (e.g., lubricants, coolants, etc.); • Adjustment of regulators, sensors, safety valves and switches; • Correct and effective activation of safety systems (e.g., deluge system, electrical alarms, emergency power system, backup gas supplies); • Analysis of gases; • Checks of viewports, pressure boundaries, calibrations and statutory testing status; and • Recording of all periodic tests in the maintenance log, which should be scrutinized regularly.

B. Administration and Maintenance

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
7) System maintenance (cont.)		2	<p>c) A documented corrective maintenance process should be established.</p> <p>It should include the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full cause-and-effect recording of all system failures and breakdowns; • Logging of corrective actions; <p>A hold on further pressurization of the chamber while it is occupied, until the issue has been resolved and the resolution has been approved by the safety officer; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular audits by the safety officer.
		2	<p>d) A suitable, dedicated maintenance area, equipped with dedicated tools and instruments, is required to enable personnel to effect repairs, replacements and cleaning with minimum downtime.</p>
8) Systems cleaning procedures	<p>Ineffective or incomplete cleaning of hyperbaric piping and gas storage systems can introduce dangerous substances into the systems, posing a risk of fire or toxic contamination.</p> <p>A failure to thoroughly clean chambers and their associated equipment on a daily basis can result in the spread of transmissible diseases.</p>	3	<p>a) After initial installation, repairs or modifications of any gas supply or control systems, a cleanliness certificate should be issued that meets the satisfaction of the safety officer.</p>
		3	<p>b) The placement of suitable filters at positions such as the O₂ or air inlet should be considered as appropriate.</p>
		3	<p>c) Suitable cleaning procedures should be documented and should be certified as effective by the safety officer prior to being implemented.</p> <p>These procedures should preferably include objective inspection and testing instructions.</p>
		3	<p>d) Suitable, noncorrosive antiseptics and detergents should be used to clean all surfaces at the end of every treatment day.</p>

B. Administration and Maintenance

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
8) Systems cleaning procedures (cont.)		3	e) Caution is required in cleaning certain components (e.g., viewports and fire-resistant materials) to avoid degradation of the material or a reduction in its fire-resistant properties.
		3	f) Safe and comprehensive protocols should be established regarding issues such as protective clothing, disposal of cleaning containers, disposal or cleaning of contaminated linens, inspection of chambers after they have been cleaned and adequate ventilation both during cleaning and prior to treatments.
<u>Warning:</u> Trichloroethylene is not recommended as a cleaning compound in RCCs.			
Not only is it hazardous to individuals who use it, but the fluid also reacts with CO ₂ -absorbent chemicals, forming a toxic and explosive volatile compound.			
9) Approved lubricants or consumable materials	Many common and accepted lubricants and consumable materials are not safe for use within a hyperbaric environment, especially in the presence of high concentrations of O ₂ .	4	a) The criteria by which materials are judged to be safe for use in a hyperbaric environment should include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suitably pressure-rated and O₂-compatible;• Nontoxic;• Nonreactive with system elastomers and other similar materials;• Noncorrosive; and• Effective and easy to apply or use.
		2	b) Materials should be clearly identified for their intended use and should be packaged to keep out contaminants.
		2	c) Lubricants should be used sparingly and should not be used to correct equipment flaws (e.g., on nonsealing joining surfaces or to compensate for a poor fit). All excess lubricants should be removed prior to the use of the equipment.

B. Administration and Maintenance

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
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B-6. Electrical Safeguards

1) Testing	Any electrical faults or failures of a chamber's protective equipment presents considerable risk to the safety of the operating environment.	4	All electrical circuits, ground fault interrupters (GFIs) and line insulation monitors (LIMs) should be tested before each treatment session, to assure that they are functioning normally and that no live conductors are grounded.
2) De-energization of equipment	A failure to de-energize electrical equipment during a fire, especially in facilities with a sprinkler or deluge system, can be exceedingly dangerous, due to the risk of electrical shock and even death if water comes in contact with an electrical fire.	5	Any electrical equipment in a RCC that is not life-critical should be de-energized prior to the activation of a sprinkler or deluge system (unless it is adequately waterproofed).

B. Administration and Maintenance

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
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B-7. General Safeguards

1) Furniture	Furniture that is inadequately grounded, that has loose joints and that contains ferrous metals can result in fire (due to static discharge, buildup of a static charge and sparking from ferrous metals).	2	a) Furniture should be periodically inspected, especially as to its grounding and insulation and the integrity of its joints.
		3	b) Unless it is unavoidable, furniture inside a chamber should not be moved during treatments.
		5	c) Metals that exhibit sparking potential on impact should not be used on load-bearing furniture. For example, oxidized ferrous metals should never be used for chair-leg tips in a chamber, as they could produce high-temperature sparks if they strike a surface such as aluminum deck plates.
		3	d) Only O ₂ -compatible, nonflammable lubricants should be used on casters and bearings inside a chamber. This should be confirmed by regular inspection.
2) Materials containing rubber	Rubber materials deteriorate rapidly in an O ₂ -enriched environment, resulting in reduced mechanical strength.	3	All rubber-bearing materials should be regularly tested in accordance with established periodic maintenance requirements, especially at points of kinking. This is especially applicable to rubber with a high carbon content.
3) Fire-suppression equipment	Failure of any fire-suppression equipment jeopardizes the ability of the system to effectively extinguish a fire.	4	a) All fire-suppression controls, including switches, valves and monitoring equipment, should be visually inspected prior to every treatment session.
		4	b) Semiannual inspections should be conducted of all fire-extinguishing media and of the functioning of the system.

B. Administration and Maintenance

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
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B-8. Housekeeping

1) Tidiness	Cluttered and untidy facilities present a safety hazard in terms of operational control, especially in emergency situations.	3	The owner or manager should ensure that operating areas are kept free of unnecessary equipment, that nonessential equipment is stowed away, and that essential equipment is at hand.
2) Cleanliness	Any buildup of flammable materials, such as grease, dirt, lint and dust, represents a risk of fire.	3 3	a) It is essential that a RCC be kept meticulously free of grease, dirt, lint, dust and other undesirable materials. b) The person tasked with daily cleaning should be thoroughly briefed as to the dangers of uncleanliness.
3) Diseases & contamination	The lack of and inadequate, daily cleaning of the chamber and equipment may cause transmission of diseases and spread of contamination.	3 3 3	a) A suitable, non-corrosive, antiseptic (e.g. quaternary ammonia-based) and synthetic (e.g. non-soap) detergent should be used to clean all surfaces following each treatment day. b) Due caution is required in cleaning certain hyperbaric components, e.g. fire-treated bedding and mattresses, to avoid degradation or a reduction in fire-resistant properties. c) Safe and effective protocols should address issues such as protective clothing, disposal of cleaning containers, disposal or cleaning of contaminated linen, inspection of chamber after cleaning and adequate ventilation during cleaning and prior to treatments.
4) Acrylic cleaning procedures	The visibility and life span of acrylic materials can be reduced by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abrasion - reducing visibility; • Surface damage - reducing life span; and • Degradation due to chemical incompatibility – reducing visibility and life span. 	4 3 2	a) Antiseptic and cleaning compounds should be specifically certified as being suitable for acrylic viewports. b) Due caution is required in cleaning acrylic components to avoid mechanical damage. c) A soft, lint-free cloth should be used to clean the acrylic window.

B. Administration and Maintenance			
Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
5) Standby conditions	During extended periods of down-time (i.e. the chamber is not being used), there may be less attention to housekeeping, with the corresponding danger of non-compliance with facility safety procedures.	3	a) Only properly trained personnel should be allowed to clean the facility.
		3	b) The entry of unauthorized personnel into the facility should be prevented.
		2	c) The facility should preferably be kept secured (locked) at all times.

B. Administration and Maintenance

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
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B-9. Medical Staff Qualifications

1) Dive medicine practitioners	The ability to administer and monitor hyperbaric medical treatments requires specific knowledge, training and experience.	4	A RCC's dive medicine practitioner should hold the following minimum qualifications:
	Patients can present with a range of responses and side effects and numerous other medical complications or situations can also arise.	3	a) Registration as a medical practitioner according to relevant national regulations;
	Furthermore, if the patient is located in a sealed, pressurized chamber, the practitioner may need to either manage a medical incident in a hands-off manner or deliver care within the confines of the pressurized chamber.	4	b) Completion of dive medicine training endorsed by relevant national regulations or by a recognized international hyperbaric and/or dive medicine association;
		4	c) Current basic life support (BLS) certification (with advanced cardiac life support [ACLS] certification recommended); and d) Confirmation of being medically fit to enter a chamber while it is under pressure.
2) Chamber operators	Medical complications and emergencies may require specific and quick action in order to mitigate risk for the patient. Appropriate knowledge, training and experience are required if a chamber operator is to make decisions regarding pressure control, ventilation, monitoring and/or termination of a treatment.	4	No one should operate a hyperbaric chamber unless they are a suitably qualified chamber operator with appropriate training endorsed by relevant national regulations or a recognized international hyperbaric and/or dive medicine association.

B. Administration and Maintenance

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
3) Chamber attendants	<p>The chamber attendant is typically the only person with direct, immediate access to patients during treatments.</p> <p>Proper medical training, experience and competence are essential to enable attendants to manage patients appropriately and to follow instructions from the medical practitioner, who is typically stationed outside the chamber.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>3</p>	<p>Chamber attendants should hold the following minimum qualifications:</p> <p>a) Appropriate training endorsed by relevant national regulations or by a recognized international hyperbaric and/or dive medicine association;</p> <p>b) Current BLS certification; and</p> <p>c) Confirmation of being medically fit to enter a chamber while it is under pressure.</p>

B. Administration and Maintenance

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
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B-10. Patient Care

1) Staffing levels	<p>The operation of a RCC is complex under normal as well as emergency conditions and thus requires a minimum complement of qualified staff.</p> <p>Operators may need to leave the control panel at times – such as to use the bathroom.</p> <p>History has shown that accidents have happened during the time that chambers have been left unattended.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>4</p> <p>4</p> <p>5</p>	<p>The following minimum staffing levels should be maintained at all times:</p> <p>a) A chamber operator;</p> <p>b) At least one chamber attendant; and</p> <p>c) A medical practitioner who is qualified to deliver hyperbaric oxygen therapy.</p> <p>No chamber should be left without an operator in control at any point, even in the event of a medical or other emergency that affects the delegated operator.</p>
2) Medical supervision	<p>Professional expertise is required to deal with the side effects and complications of treatments and with the possibility that advanced care, life-support services and complicated interventions might be called for.</p> <p>Failure to provide proper medical supervision can thus compromise a patient's health or life.</p>	3	<p>A qualified dive medicine practitioner should be available at all times during all treatments and should supervise treatments in accordance with international requirements for medical supervision.</p>
3) Patient medical screening	<p>Significant physiological risks exist for patients with contraindications if they are placed under hyperbaric pressure, especially if they are also administered O₂-enriched gases.</p> <p>Patients may also have psychological and/or social issues that can affect their health and safety and/or the outcome of their treatments.</p>	4	<p>Every patient should be screened by a qualified dive medicine practitioner before being accepted for treatment.</p> <p>The screening should include confirmation of the appropriateness of the treatment, the lack of any contraindications and an assessment of the patient's physical and psychological status.</p>

B. Administration and Maintenance

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
4) Patient orientation	<p>Patients who are unaware of the hazards associated with RCCs could inadvertently bring prohibited items or materials into a chamber.</p> <p>If patients are not well informed about the process, they may experience anxiety which could cause them to panic or at the least experience additional stress.</p>	3	<p>Patients should receive an orientation to the facility, as well as to all relevant policies and procedures, before their treatment begins.</p> <p>The orientation should emphasize safety precautions related to fire and pressure hazards (e.g., prohibited items and materials).</p>
5) Patient records and procedures	<p>Failure to comply with national requirements regarding patient records can put a facility in legal jeopardy.</p>	3	<p>Patient medical records should be kept up to date and confidential, with individual files kept on each patient.</p> <p>Any relevant national regulations regarding patient records should be followed.</p>
6) Basic emergency medical equipment available	<p>If a patient experiences distress while in the chamber, it may be necessary to render immediate care either inside the chamber or immediately upon extracting the patient from the chamber.</p> <p>Furthermore, some RCC facilities do not have ready access to hospital emergency departments.</p> <p>The lack of equipment to handle such situations can compromise patients' health or lives.</p>	3	<p>Medical equipment suitable to handle any foreseeable emergencies, consistent with the RCC's advertised scope of services, should be available, maintained and readily accessible.</p>

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Abbreviations

A	ampere
ABS	American Bureau of Shipping
AC	alternating (electrical) current
acfm	actual cubic feet per minute
ACLS	advanced cardiac life support
AS/NZS	Australian/New Zealand Standard
ASME	American Society of Mechanical Engineers
ASTM	American Society for Testing and Materials
ATA	atmospheres absolute (101,325 Pa or 14.7 psi)
BIBS	built-in breathing system
BLS	basic life support
CO ₂	carbon dioxide
CO	carbon monoxide
°C	degrees Celsius (temperature)
CFL	compact fluorescent lamp
CGA	Compressed Gas Association
CH ₄	methane
DAN	Divers Alert Network
dB(A)	A-weighted decibel (a measure of the relative loudness in air as perceived by the human ear)
DC	direct (electrical) current
DCI	decompression illness
DT	dew point temperature (measured at sea level/1 ATA and expressed in °C or °F)
EBAss	European Baromedical Association
ECHM	European Committee for Hyperbaric Medicine
EIGA	European Industrial Gas Association
EUBS	European Undersea & Baromedical Society
°F	degrees Fahrenheit
fsw	feet of sea water
ft	foot
gpm	gallon per minute (Imperial; 1 gpm = 3.8 lpm)
GFI	ground fault interrupter (also ground fault circuit interrupter; detects current leakage to ground)
H ₂ O	water
HC	hydrocarbon
HP	high pressure (assumed as > 1 MPa/150 psi for air and inert gases; > 0.86 MPa/125 psi for O ₂)
HTNA	Hyperbaric Technicians and Nurses Association
IDAN	International DAN
IPS	isolated power supply (also referred to as an isolated power system; provides electrical isolation between input and output circuits and provides separate ground paths)
ISO	International Organization for Standardization

kGy	kilogray (a unit of absorbed radiation dose, defined as 1 Joule/kilogram: 1 kGy = 1 kJ/kg)
LIM	line isolation monitor (also line insulation monitor; used to detect ground leakage in ungrounded electrical systems)
LOX	liquid oxygen
LP	low pressure (assumed as < 1 MPa/150 psi for air and inert gases; < 0.86 MPa/125 psi for O ₂)
lpm	liters per minute
LR	Lloyd's Register
m	meter
MPa	megapascal (10 ⁶ pascal)
mrad	megarad (a unit of absorbed radiation dose with 1 mrad = 10 MGy)
msw	meters of sea water
μm	micrometer (10 ⁻⁶ m)
mA	milliampere (0.001 A)
mg/m ³	milligrams per cubic meter (0.001 g/m ³), measured at normal temperature and pressure
mm	millimeter (0.001 m)
mW	milliwatt (0.001 W)
min	minute
nm	nanometer (10 ⁻⁹ m)
NBDHMT	National Board of Diving and Hyperbaric Medical Technology
N ₂	nitrogen
NFPA	National Fire Protection Association
O ₂	oxygen
OCA	oxygen-compatible air
Pa	pascal
ppm _v	parts per million by volume
psi	pounds per square inch
PVHO	pressure vessels for human occupancy
RCC	recompression chamber
RCD	residual current device (detects current leakage to ground; provides similar protection as a GFI)
RL	risk level
SAUHMA	Southern African Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Association
SEV	surface equivalent value (expressed in percentage or %)
TT	treatment table
UV	ultraviolet light (light spectrum immediately below visible light; wavelength range 10 – 400 nm)
UHMS	Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society
USN	United States Navy
USP	U.S. Pharmacopoeia
V _{AC}	volts alternating current
V _{DC}	volts direct current
V _{rms}	root mean square voltage
W	watt

Appendix A

Applicable Regulations and Guidelines

System Guidance Documents

1. National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) 99, *Health Care Facilities Code*, chapter 14 (“Hyperbaric Facilities”), 2018.
2. Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society (UHMS), *Guidelines for Clinical Multiplace Hyperbaric Facilities*, 1994.

System Standards

1. Australian/New Zealand Standard (AS/NZS) 2299.1:2007, *Occupational Diving Standards — Standard Occupational Practice*, 2007.
2. American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) PVHO-1, *Safety Standard for Pressure Vessels for Human Occupancy*, 2016.
3. American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) PVHO-2, *Safety Standard for Pressure Vessels for Human Occupancy: In-Service Guidelines* (guidelines for PVHO acrylic windows), 2016.
4. European Standard EN 14931:2006, *Pressure Vessels for Human Occupancy (PVHO). Multi-place pressure chambers for hyperbaric therapy. Performance, safety requirements and testing*, 2006.
5. European Standard EN 12021:2014, *Respiratory equipment. Compressed gases for breathing apparatus*, 2014 (including November 2014 corrections).
6. European Standard EN 16081:2013, *Hyperbaric chambers — Specific requirements for fire extinguishing systems — Performance, installation and testing (Austrian standard)*, 2013.

International Classification Society Rules

1. American Bureau of Shipping (ABS) 7: *Rules for Building and Classing Underwater Vehicles, Systems and Hyperbaric Facilities*, 2017.
2. Lloyd’s Register (LR): *Rules and Regulations for the Construction and Classification of Submersibles and Diving Systems*, 2018.

Additional Guidance Documents

1. American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) G-93-96, *Standard Practice for Cleaning Methods and Cleanliness Levels for Material and Equipment Used in Oxygen-Enriched Environments*, 1996.
2. Australian Standards (AS) 4774.2-2002, *Work in compressed air and hyperbaric facilities*, Part 2: Hyperbaric oxygen facilities, 2002.
3. Compressed Gas Association (CGA) G-7.1-2018, *Commodity Specification for Air*, 7th edition, 2018.
4. Compressed Gas Association (CGA) G-4.1, *Cleaning Equipment for Oxygen Service*, 7th edition, 2018.
5. Compressed Gas Association (CGA) P-45-2018, *Fire Hazards of Oxygen and Oxygen-Enriched Atmospheres*, 2nd edition, 2018.
6. European Industrial Gases Association (EIGA) 33/18, *Cleaning of Equipment for Oxygen Service*, 2018.
7. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 70, *National Electrical Code*, 2017.
8. Naval Sea Systems Command, *US Navy Diving Manual*, Revision 7, 2017.

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Appendix B

Determination of Risk Levels

As referred to in the Explanatory Notes (see page 2), a *risk* is based on three factors. A risk may be quantified by calculating the product of the *probability* (that is, the likelihood that an adverse event will occur), the *exposure to a hazard* (quantified by frequency of exposure) and the potential *harmful consequences* (quantified by the severity of those consequences, should they occur).

In all cases, a realistic assessment should be made of the actual quantification of each of these three factors to arrive at a realistic worst-case scenario.

A Likert scale provides a suitable means of allocating scores to each factor; the probability of fire, mechanical and health risks should be considered for each hazard assessed.

A score is thus computed as the product of each of the three factors, such that 5 x 5 x 5, or 125, is the highest possible score.

The three tables below offer relevant descriptions for the quantification of *probability*, frequency of *exposure* and *harmful consequences*.

Table 3: Factor Score Values

Probability/likelihood of an adverse event occurring					
Fire and/or explosion		Mechanical hazards		Health and/or medical hazards	
Combustion definite	5	Failure definite	5	Event definite	5
Combustion expected	4	Failure expected	4	Event expected	4
Combustion possible	3	Failure possible	3	Event possible	3
Combustion unusual	2	Failure unusual	2	Event unusual	2
Combustion unlikely	1	Failure unlikely	1	Event unlikely	1

Exposure to the hazard	
Continuous: throughout a shift	5
Daily: < about twice a day	4
Weekly: < about twice a week	3
Monthly: < about twice a month	2
Annually: < about twice a year	1

Severity of the outcome	
Catastrophic: e.g., death, life-threatening injury, destruction	5
Severe: e.g., significant injury, facility no longer available	4
Serious: e.g., reduced ability to treat or treatment quality	3
Significant: e.g., minor damage/injury, additional staff needed	2
Noticeable: e.g., inconvenience, additional work required	1

It is possible to have no exposure to a hazard and thus no consequences. In such a case, there is no risk.

If a risk encompasses more than one of the probability/likelihood risk categories (i.e., fire and/or explosion, mechanical hazards and health and/or medical hazards), each category should be assessed separately (*probability x exposure x harmful consequences*) and the highest score should be used.

The next table provides empirically derived guidance regarding the determination of an overall risk level, based on the scoring of *probability*, *exposure* and *harmful consequences*; the associated risk rating; and the requirement for mitigation based on the urgency of avoiding the consequence(s).

Table 4: Risk Level and Associated Mitigation Requirements

Score	RL	Risk Rating	Requirements
> 100	5	Very high	<p>Attention and risk mitigation are critical and must be given highest priority.</p> <p>A potentially dangerous situation may exist, with the possibility of very serious or catastrophic consequences in the event of an adverse incident.</p> <p>The treatment activity should stop immediately and should not recommence until effective mitigation is in place.</p>
60–99	4	High	<p>Attention and risk mitigation are required and must be given high priority.</p> <p>A serious situation may exist that could endanger people or equipment or that could seriously disrupt or jeopardize the facility.</p> <p>Solutions or actions that may mitigate the risk should be considered, at the discretion of the <i>responsible person</i> and they should be recorded in writing.</p>
20–59	3	Medium	<p>Attention to the risk is required.</p> <p>Eventual exposure to this risk could likely result in an incident.</p> <p>Outcomes could include business disruption, financial or liability consequences, injuries or equipment damage.</p> <p>Mitigation of the risk should be accomplished within practical time and cost considerations.</p>
10–19	2	Low	<p>Attention to the risk is recommended for the optimal functioning of the recompression facility.</p> <p>Risk mitigation steps already in place should be recorded in writing.</p>
< 10	1	Very low	<p>The risk is acceptable.</p> <p>Note should be taken of the risk, but either it has already been suitably mitigated or its impact is of justifiably low significance.</p>

Appendix C

Guidance on Chamber Air Specifications

Introduction

A great deal of confusion exists over the so-called minimum specifications for breathing air. This is partly due to the fact that breathing air is often stored in high-pressure form, requiring additional corrosion considerations and therefore mandating uncomfortably dry air. However, the major debate centers on the safety issues associated with the presence of hydrocarbons and with the definition of oil-free air.

National standards for air purity (based on acceptable impurity levels) exist in most countries. However, these standards are not necessarily appropriate for the O₂-enriched environments found in medical hyperbaric chambers; this necessitates a review of the international standards that are applicable.

The NFPA 99 standard covers requirements for air that is both O₂-compatible and medically safe. The resulting standard is classified as medical air by the U.S. Pharmacopoeia (USP), together with additional restrictions.

Although some national standards require stricter control of (H₂O), these limits are based on storage-cylinder corrosion considerations rather than patient considerations or O₂-safety considerations.

The following two specifications both allow a greater amount of H₂O to be present (based on the many international diving standards for surface-supplied air) in air up to 4.0 MPa (580 psi). It is important to note the additional requirements for air compressed to higher pressures, in order to avoid the risk of regulator freeze-up.

Breathing Air Specifications

The required minimum specifications for breathing air — if the intended application excludes any mixing to achieve O₂ enrichment above 23.5% and if the air will not be piped into any system that could be used to convey O₂-enriched mixtures or pure O₂ (such as for a BIBS) — are as follows:

Table 5: Air Quality Element Maximum Limits

Element	Requirement																											
Oxygen	20% to 22%																											
H ₂ O	<p>Compressed air for HP cylinder storage should meet the requirements of:</p> <p>< 50 mg/m³ (62 ppm_v) or DT -46°C (-51°F) for cylinder pressures 4 – 20 MPa (580 – 2900 psi).</p> <p>< 35 mg/m³ (44 ppm_v) or DT -49°C (-56°F) for cylinder pressures 20 – 30 MPa (2900 - 4350 psi).</p> <p>< 25 mg/m³ (33 ppm_v) or DT -51°C (-60°F) measured at the compressor outlet.</p> <p>Air supplied to the chamber downstream of all pressure reducing regulators (i.e. LP air) need only meet the following requirements, except for applications where the air passes through pneumatic controls*.</p> <p>* In these cases, a 62 ppm_v (-46°C/-51°F dew point) limit may be required.</p> <table><tr><th colspan="4">Recommended limits for breathing air at up to 580 psi (40 bar or 4.0 MPa)</th></tr><tr><th>Supply pressure MPa (psi)</th><th>Max H₂O content* mg/m³ (ppm_v)</th><th>Supply pressure MPa (psi)</th><th>Max H₂O content* mg/m³ (ppm_v)</th></tr><tr><td>0.5 (73)</td><td>290 (361)</td><td>2.5 (360)</td><td>65 (81)</td></tr><tr><td>1.0 (145)</td><td>160 (199)</td><td>3.0 (435)</td><td>55 (68)</td></tr><tr><td>1.5 (220)</td><td>110 (137)</td><td>4.0 (580)</td><td>50 (62)</td></tr><tr><td>2.0 (290)</td><td>80 (99)</td><td colspan="2">*Measured at 1 ATA & 20°C (68°F)</td></tr></table>				Recommended limits for breathing air at up to 580 psi (40 bar or 4.0 MPa)				Supply pressure MPa (psi)	Max H ₂ O content* mg/m ³ (ppm _v)	Supply pressure MPa (psi)	Max H ₂ O content* mg/m ³ (ppm _v)	0.5 (73)	290 (361)	2.5 (360)	65 (81)	1.0 (145)	160 (199)	3.0 (435)	55 (68)	1.5 (220)	110 (137)	4.0 (580)	50 (62)	2.0 (290)	80 (99)	*Measured at 1 ATA & 20°C (68°F)	
Recommended limits for breathing air at up to 580 psi (40 bar or 4.0 MPa)																												
Supply pressure MPa (psi)	Max H ₂ O content* mg/m ³ (ppm _v)	Supply pressure MPa (psi)	Max H ₂ O content* mg/m ³ (ppm _v)																									
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2.0 (290)	80 (99)	*Measured at 1 ATA & 20°C (68°F)																										
CO ₂	CO ₂ to be less than 500 ppm _v (required where breathing pressures may exceed 1 ATA).																											
CO	CO to be less than 5 ppm _v																											
Oil: breathing air	<p>Less than 0.5 mg/m³ of liquid hydrocarbons (oils).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Liquid oil content is defined as a level of condensed hydrocarbons, measured in mg/m³ at normal temperature and pressure.If a chamber uses oil-lubricated compressors, irrespective of the filtration system employed, the incoming chamber air supply should be monitored downstream of the filters for oil content. <p>Less than 25 ppm_v of gaseous hydrocarbons (e.g., methane).</p>																											
Oil: medical air	<p>Non-detectable or less than 0.1 mg/m³ of liquid hydrocarbons (oils).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Liquid oil content is defined as a level of condensed hydrocarbons, measured in mg/m³ at normal temperature and pressure. The lowest detectible level is 0.1 mg/m³.If a chamber uses oil-lubricated compressors, irrespective of the filtration system employed, the incoming chamber air supply should be monitored downstream of the filters for oil content. <p>Less than 25 ppm_v of gaseous hydrocarbons (e.g., methane).</p>																											
Particulates	Concentration of particles to be < 0.5 mg/m ³ for particles greater than 5 µm in size.																											
Odor	None.																											

Appendix D

Guidance on Fire-Suppression Systems in RCCs

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
<p>Note: It is normally mandatory for RCCs to have both handline and deluge fire-suppression systems; however, the deluge system may be activated either manually or automatically, at the discretion of the facility's medical director and/or <i>responsible</i> person.</p> <p>Factors that should be considered in making that determination include the type of medical procedures conducted at the facility and the resulting risk to patients in the event that an automatic system is accidentally triggered.</p> <p>With the exception of O₂-fueled fires, most fires within a chamber can be effectively extinguished using a manual handline.</p> <p>Thus additional relevant factors include the effect on likely reaction times of the chamber's physical layout; the ease of access to the chamber; the chamber's size (which can affect how fast the chamber environment is O₂-enriched in the event of a leak); the response time of the chamber's O₂ monitoring systems; and the likelihood that potentially hazardous equipment (e.g., a defibrillator) may need to be used within the chamber.</p>			
1) Component failure	Component failure can affect the integrity of a fire-suppression system.	5	The design of all fire-suppression systems should be such that failure of components in either the deluge system or the handline system will not compromise the effective functioning of the other system.
2) Automatic activation of certain functions	<p>The activation of certain safety-related functions should not be left to the operator during emergency situations.</p> <p>Without immediate reactions to such an event, the lives of occupants and the safety of the entire facility could be placed at extreme risk.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p>	<p>On activation of either a deluge system or a handline system, the following should occur automatically:</p> <p>a) Visible and audible indication of an alarm situation at the operator's console, plus signaling to the nearest fire department;</p> <p>b) Instruction to the occupants to immediately put on their breathing apparatus;</p> <p>c) Disconnection of all internal, ungrounded electrical power systems, excluding those that are intrinsically safe;</p> <p>d) Isolation of all O₂ supplies to the chamber's interior and activation of an oil-free breathing air supply (or normoxic gas) in the place of O₂;</p>

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
2) Automatic activation of certain functions (cont.)		3 3	e) Activation of emergency lighting and communications, if applicable; and f) Based on severity and where the situation can be safely assessed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surfacing of the chamber as rapidly as the situation requires; and • Performance of any special activities within the chamber.
3) Automatic fire alarm	The chamber operator should not be expected to have to contact fire and/or emergency services manually if an adverse incident occurs either within the chamber or in its immediate vicinity.	4	A fire alarm and/or emergency signaling device should be located at the operator's console, so the operator can easily and directly signal either a telephone operator at a nearby health-care facility or the nearest fire department. A direct alarm/monitoring system automatically coupled to the fire department is even better.
4) Fire-suppression system's power supply	A power failure could completely compromise the activation and effective functioning of the fire-suppression system.	5	All fire-suppression system components and controls should be powered from the RCC facility's emergency power system or from the chamber's independent backup power reserve.

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
5) Water deluge system	<p>Unless the deluge system is properly designed, there is a risk that its coverage and/or function may be ineffective under the range of pressures and situations found within a hyperbaric environment.</p> <p>Fire deluge tanks are not usually fitted with the means to determine the actual water level.</p> <p>The required pressurized space above the water implies that the vessel cannot simply be filled to the top.</p> <p>Any rust or other particles and flakes may clog the spray nozzles or cause the activation valve to seize shut.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>5</p> <p>5</p> <p>3</p> <p>3</p>	<p>a) A fixed water-deluge system should be installed in all manned locks, excluding locks used solely for transfer purposes.</p> <p>b) The system should be designed so as to function effectively and simultaneously in all treatment locks, even at different pressures.</p> <p>c) The system should perform as specified across the full operating pressure range of the chamber.</p> <p>d) A suitable water-level indicator should be installed and preferably displayed at the chamber console.</p> <p>e) A suitable water filter (strainer) should be installed as close to the outlet of the water-supply system and always before the deluge activation valve.</p>
6) Location of activation controls	Response time during an emergency has a direct effect on the success of the outcome.	<p>4</p> <p>3</p>	<p>a) Activation and deactivation controls should be installed at the operator's console and inside each manned lock.</p> <p>The number and location of control stations required inside each lock are dependent on the lock size and are subject to the <i>responsible person's</i> discretion.</p> <p>b) All controls should be designed to prevent their inadvertent activation, but not cause a delay if activation is required.</p>
7) Deluge activation time	The speed with which a deluge system is activated in the event of a chamber fire has a direct effect on the success of the outcome.	4	<p>Deluge valves should open within 1 second of the activation signal.</p> <p>Water should be delivered from the sprinkler heads no longer than 3 seconds after the activation signal.</p>

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
8) Adequate deluge system coverage	Inadequate or incomplete coverage reduces the effective extinguishing capability of a deluge system.	4	a) The deluge system should be designed so that the number and position of the sprinkler heads achieve the following effects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uniform spray coverage; • An <i>average</i> spray density at <i>floor level</i> of no less than 82 lpm/m² (2 gpm/ft²); and • An actual coverage of no less than 41 lpm over any floor area larger than 1 m² (1 gpm over any area larger than 1 ft²).
		4	b) The design should account for the fact that the increased density of air in a hyperbaric atmosphere causes increased resistance to water droplet movement, which in turn reduces the effective spray angle — thus necessitating a greater number of sprinkler heads.
		5	c) The system should be tested after it has been installed as well as after any modifications are made, preferably across the full range of operating pressures to confirm that it functions as designed.

Warning: Conventional deluge systems may be found in many diving systems but are not necessarily appropriate for combating the high-temperature, rapidly propagating O₂-fueled fires that can occur in a RCC facility that delivers regular hyperbaric oxygen treatments.

Definition: The term “floor level” in the context of a horizontal, cylindrical chamber is taken to mean either the area one-quarter diameter below the chamber’s center line (which equates to 87% of the chamber diameter) or the area at actual floor level, whichever is greater.

Note: European Standard EN 16081 (see Appendix F, Reference 14) provides an alternative approach to designing a deluge system.

According to this standard, specific flow or pressure parameters are not required. Instead, the system is qualified by means of a so-called hot test, wherein temperatures at certain positions on dummies that have been set on fire in a pressurized chamber must be reduced to specific levels within a specified time period.

Flow, pressure or duration parameters are not specified.

It is the opinion of the author that this is a more suitable design approach, as the ability of the deluge system to extinguish a fire rests with the system’s designer and manufacturer.

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
9) Deluge system water capacity	Insufficient water capacity, especially if all spray nozzles are operating simultaneously, can compromise the effective extinguishing capability of a deluge system.	4	a) The system should be designed with sufficient water capacity to maintain the required flow, which is determined as the product of 82 lpm over the actual floor area in m ² (2 gpm/ft ²) in each chamber lock for at least 1 minute.
	Excessive amounts of deluge water could present a drowning risk where chamber occupants have fallen to the floor or failure of essential equipment due to flooding.	4	b) The maximum water capacity should be determined by the capacity of the chamber's bilge or drainage system, so as not to flood equipment or, in extreme cases, drown a patient who may have fallen to the floor.
	In the event that the deluge water is depleted, driving gas may enter the chamber, causing an increase in chamber pressure.	3	c) The driving gas supply should shut off prior to water being driven out of the deluge supply tank.
10) Reserve supply pressure	Insufficient reserve supply pressure can render the deluge system ineffective in the event of a power failure.	4	The deluge system should have sufficient stored pressure to operate for a minimum of 15 seconds without electrical power.
11) Handline extinguishing systems	Smaller fires can be extinguished using handlines, avoiding the disruptive effects of a deluge system. Inadequate handline systems can result in more damage than necessary.	3	a) Each treatment lock should be fitted with at least two handlines.
		3	b) If a treatment lock is designed for only one or two patients and is fitted with just a single handline, the handline should reach the entire interior of the chamber safely, including the bilge, if applicable.
		3	c) All transfer locks should be fitted with at least one handline or one hyperbaric fire extinguisher.
		3	d) If bilge access panels are installed, at least one handline should be long enough to extinguish fires in the bilge area.
12) Handlines	Inadequately sized or rated handlines can fail during use, which both causes a physical hazard and compromises their effectiveness.	3	a) Handlines should have a minimum internal bore of 12 mm (½").
		4	b) All handlines should have a rated working pressure greater than the pressure for which the supply system is designed.

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
13) Handline activation	Cumbersome, awkward or illogical activation of handlines can impair response times.	4	Handlines should be activated using individual, quick-opening valves located within each chamber lock.
14) Dual valves	Leaking activation valves can present problems inside a chamber for electrical equipment, patients, etc.	3	All handlines should be fitted with individual override valves that are placed in accessible locations outside the chamber and are sealed in the open position with frangible safety wire seals.
15) Water supply pressure and/or flow	Inadequate pressure and/or flow in the water supply will impair the effective functioning of handlines.	4 4	a) The pressure of any handline water supply should be at least 0.35 MPa (50 psi) higher than the chamber pressure at all times. b) The system should be capable of delivering at least 19 lpm (5 gpm) per handline at maximum chamber pressure.
16) Automatic fire detectors	If a system is fitted with automatic fire detectors, but they are incorrectly specified or they fail to operate properly, it can compromise the effectiveness of the fire-suppression system.	 3 3 4 4 3	If a system is fitted with automatic fire detectors, they should conform to the following criteria: a) Only surveillance detectors, which respond to flame radiation within 1 second of flame origination, should be used; b) The number and physical location of detectors should be based on the sensitivity of each detector and on the configuration of the space(s) under protection (without any blind spots); c) The detectors should be powered by the chamber's backup system or be fitted with an independent backup battery; d) If the detectors are used to activate the deluge system automatically, the requirements for manual activation and deactivation, as well as required response times, still apply; and e) The system should be designed with self-monitoring for fault detection, as well as fault alarms and indicators.

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
17) Regular function testing	Deluge systems that are not regularly maintained and function tested can fail upon use.	4	a) Deluge and handline systems should be function tested at least every six months, with their full and effective function confirmed.
	Seals, controls, pressurization devices, etc. can stick or jam due to creep, embrittlement or deterioration.	4	b) If a bypass system is installed, the design of the system's test mode should be such that the system resorts to normal operating mode by default after the test. This requirement does not replace the need for full function and performance testing after a system's initial installation and after any subsequent modifications.

Note: Bypass systems make regular testing easier, as the interior of the chamber does not need to be deluged.

Care should be exercised in the selection of a bypass system, so that the potency of the full flow path can be assessed.

Lines may become blocked over time, reducing the supply of water to individual sprinkler heads.

It may be preferable to design a bypass so that full flow is achieved but the water is captured by means of flexible pipes leading down to the bilge (preferably into suitable containers).

It is also still advisable to measure the system's flow (volume per unit of time) to ensure that full flow is achieved, in accordance with the system's design.

The duration of the sprinklers' operation will depend on the system's design but generally should be no less than 15 seconds.

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Appendix E

Electrical Requirements for RCCs

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
<p>Warning: Electrical equipment that must be installed in or brought into a RCC should be limited to a maximum voltage of 24V_{DC}.</p> <p>All of the precautions detailed below should still be followed, however, because even low-voltage switches can induce sparks with enough energy to ignite certain materials under normal conditions.</p> <p>Note: A hyperbaric chamber is considered a Class 1, Division 2 location for the purposes of specifying electrical system components.</p> <p>That means it is a location in which flammable vapors are present but are normally confined within closed systems or in which ignitable concentrations of such substances are limited by ventilation.</p> <p>In other words, a hyperbaric chamber is considered a Class 1 location not because of its O₂-enriched atmosphere.</p> <p>It is the presence of flammable vapors (e.g., from alcohol swabs or medical dressings), combined with the presence of combustible materials (including human skin), that necessitates the specification of Class 1 requirements for a chamber's electrical system.</p>			
1) Location of service equipment, switchboards, distribution boards and/or control panels	Switching for all forms of electrical power can produce sparks that contain more than sufficient energy to ignite a flammable material.	4	All electrical service equipment and high-voltage equipment (i.e., above 28 V _{DC}) should be located outside of the chamber.
2) Energized electrical equipment built into O ₂ -piped consoles	The combination of leaking O ₂ piping and energized electrical equipment creates a risk of fire.	4	If control consoles contain both O ₂ piping and electrical equipment, the electrical equipment should be totally enclosed or constantly ventilated, or the enclosed console space should be either ventilated or monitored for excessive O ₂ concentrations.

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
3) Location of switches, circuit breakers, line fuses, relays, ballasts, transformers, motor controllers and/or power supplies	<p>Switching for all forms of electrical power, even on low-power lines, can produce sparks.</p> <p>Energy-storage devices can produce sparks when they're switched or rapidly discharged.</p> <p>Sparks are a known source of ignition.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>4</p> <p>4</p> <p>3</p>	<p>a) No switching devices and no power sources should be installed within a RCC.</p> <p>b) Power supplies for equipment inside a RCC should be installed outside the chamber, according to the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For alternating current (AC) power, an ungrounded isolated power supply (IPS) should be used; and • For direct current (DC) power, an appropriately shielded transformer providing ungrounded power and including suitable protection (a fuse, trip switch or circuit breaker) to protect against any current overload should be used. <p>c) If switches need to be installed, intrinsically safe housings (i.e., rated for explosive environments) are required unless the switching capacity is < 25 mW (e.g., piezo switches).</p> <p>d) Portable items of equipment may be used inside a chamber only if they are certified as intrinsically safe or have been assessed as safe by the <i>responsible person</i>.</p>
4) Electric motors	Electric motors, including both conventional commutating motors as well as brushless motors, are a source of sparks and/or localized high temperatures.	4	<p>Fan motors should be mounted outside of RCCs.</p> <p>Motors specifically designed and certified for use within hyperbaric environments may be considered (e.g., for CO₂ scrubbers or non-invasive blood pressure monitors), with the written approval of the safety officer.</p> <p>Acceptable motors include explosion-proof motors, purged or gas-filled motors and motors that can be demonstrated to be localized heat-source-free and arc-free.</p>

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
5) Protection from a water deluge	<p>Electrical equipment that is exposed to immersion or flooding by either external or internal sprinkler and/or deluge systems can fail.</p> <p>Patient outcomes and safety procedures can thereby be affected.</p>	5	<p>All critical electrical equipment should be protected from the effects of water-based fire-suppression systems.</p> <p>If that is not possible, any equipment critical to safety should be able to function long enough to allow patients to be decompressed if necessary.</p>
6) Reserve power supplies	<p>If critical equipment fails due to a building or municipal power failure, the health and safety of chamber occupants can be compromised if lighting and communications systems fail.</p> <p>The chamber environment may become hazardous while monitors are down, patient monitoring equipment may fail, safety equipment may be rendered inoperable and the chamber may not be able to be safely decompressed.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5</p> <p>4</p>	<p>a) All critical equipment — including chamber lighting and emergency lighting, communications equipment (including emergency communications, if applicable), alarm systems, fire detectors, fire-suppression systems, chamber pressure controls and monitors, patient monitors, infusion pumps and ventilators and environmental monitors — should be connected to either a health-care facility’s emergency electrical system or, preferably, an independent reserve supply facility.</p> <p>b) If automatic controls are used to control chamber pressure, pressurization and depressurization, power to these controls should be maintained for sufficient time to complete a treatment or at least to depressurize the chamber safely.</p> <p>Alternatively, a full manual set of controls can be provided.</p> <p>c) Emergency or backup lighting to the facility should be provided.</p>

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
7) Reserve gas supplies	Failure of compressed air systems and/or O ₂ supply systems due to a power outage can compromise the chamber environment (due to insufficient ventilation) and can endanger patient safety (e.g., due to ventilator failure, O ₂ supply interruption, etc.).	4 4 4	a) If only low-pressure compressors are used, at least one compressor should be connected to an emergency power system. b) Stored high-pressure (HP) air supplies may be used to alleviate such a situation; however, the amount of stored air should be such that a treatment can be safely concluded without compromising the patient's safety. c) Stored HP O ₂ may be used as a backup for liquid oxygen (LOX) supplies.
8) Integrity of control and alarm systems	Power outages, especially those due to spikes or variations in voltage, can compromise the function of control systems and alarms. This may lead to improper deluge activation, false alarms, loss of chamber pressure control, etc.	4	Chamber control and alarm systems should be so designed that hazardous conditions cannot occur during power variations or interruptions or during power restoration.
9) Chamber wiring and/or equipment	Inappropriate electrical wiring and unsuitable electrical equipment can present a risk of explosion, electrocution or implosion in a chamber environment. Contact with electrically live components can affect the human body in the following ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tetanization or the involuntary contraction of affected muscles, which can make it difficult to let go of a live component.[¶] • Breathing arrest, due to involuntary contraction of the muscles that control the lungs, which can alter normal respiratory processes.[¶] 	3 3 3 3	a) The requirements for Class 1, Division 2 locations should be followed as a general rule for any electrical wiring and equipment located in a chamber. However it is not a requirement that chambers be classified as Class 1 locations. b) NFPA 70, Article 500, provides guidance on selecting equipment and designing wiring for chamber environments. c) Only the minimum amount of electrical equipment deemed necessary for patient care (as determined for each treatment) should be permitted inside a chamber. A chamber should not be used to store electrical equipment not required during treatment. d) All equipment intended for use within a chamber should be tested and approved for such use.

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
9) Chamber wiring and/or equipment (cont.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ventricular fibrillation or the superposition of an external current with physiological currents leads to uncontrolled contractions and this induces alterations of the cardiac cycle.[¶] Burns, due to heating caused by current passing through the body.[‡] <p>[¶] AC power [‡] AC or DC power (Joule effect)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>5</p> <p>3</p>	<p>e) Conductive surfaces of all electrically powered equipment should be grounded to the chamber shell.</p> <p>f) Standard medical industry equipment should not be altered for use inside a chamber unless such alterations are sanctioned by the original manufacturer or by a <i>competent</i> authority.</p> <p>g) The chamber's O₂ level should be continually monitored, and alarms should be sounded when it rises above 23.5%.</p> <p>h) Advice from a <i>competent</i> electrical design authority should be sought to ensure safety and compliance with these requirements.</p>
10) Insulation of conductors	<p>Uninsulated conductors represent a source of sparks.</p> <p>The composition of insulating material may also present an environmental hazard if it's exposed to heat or fire.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>3</p>	<p>All conductors used inside a chamber should be insulated using a flame-resistant material.</p> <p>a) Ground conductors encapsulated within equipment or wiring that is an integral part of approved equipment, does not require insulation.</p> <p>b) Wiring that is an integral part of equipment approved for use inside a chamber does not need to meet the flame-resistance classification.</p>
11) Wiring methods	<p>Inadequate wiring methods can generate heat, shorting and/or burn-through, which can cause sparking or ignition.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p>	<p>a) Fixed wiring should comply with the requirements of Class 1, Division 2.</p> <p>b) Wiring classified as intrinsically safe should be permitted in conventional locations.</p> <p>c) If fixed conduits, boxes and enclosures are used, they should be approved as explosion-proof for Class 1, Division 1, locations.</p> <p>d) Decisions regarding the suitability of wiring methods should be made by a <i>competent</i> person.</p>

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
12) Sealing and drainage of conduits and enclosures	<p>Activation of a deluge system can introduce water into unsealed enclosures.</p> <p>This can lead to premature failure of electrical wiring and components.</p>	3	Requirements regarding sealing and drainage are detailed in NFPA 70, Article 501-5 and should be followed.
13) Flexible cords used with portable equipment	The interruption of any powered circuit, even for low voltages, can produce a spark.	<p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>3</p>	<p>Cords used with portable equipment must meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) They must be of a type approved for extra-hard utilization; b) They must include a ground conductor; c) They must be connected to terminals in a secure and approved manner; and d) They must be supported in such a manner that no tension exists on the terminal connections. <p>The only exception to these rules applies to cords normally supplied with portable devices that are rated at less than 2 A, where such cords are securely fastened and protected from accidental damage.</p> <p>In addition, the device should have an on-off power switch and the plug on the cord should not be used to interrupt power.</p>
14) Receptacles and plugs	<p>Interruption of any powered circuit can produce sparks sufficient to ignite a flammable agent.</p> <p>Unsecure and ungrounded connections are a possible source of shock and arcing.</p> <p>Drenching from a deluge system can cause short circuits in unprotected connectors.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>3</p>	<p>All plugs and receptacles should meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) They should be of an approved type; b) They should be grounded via a grounding conductor; c) They should be fitted with an interlocking mechanism to prevent withdrawal or insertion while they are energized; d) They should be fitted with a locking mechanism or be supplied with a label warning against unplugging them while they are under load; and

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
14) Receptacles and plugs (cont.)		3	e) They should be secured and protected against accidental damage by chamber occupants.
15) Internal switches	Switches are a potential source of sparking.	4	<p>It is recommended that all switches be located outside the chamber.</p> <p>If internal switching is necessary, it should be achieved using intrinsically safe circuitry that drives external power and control circuits.</p> <p>If internal switches are used, they should meet one of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They should be waterproof; or • They should either be housed in an enclosure so that no sparks can reach the chamber atmosphere or be rated as intrinsically safe.
16) Monitoring of equipment temperature ratings	Hot surfaces can be a source of ignition, especially within RCC environments.	4	<p>No equipment installed or allowed in a RCC should have any exposed surfaces that can exceed a temperature of 85°C (185°F).</p> <p><u>Note:</u> This temperature threshold is based on the ignition temperatures of materials commonly found inside RCCs, on the potential for fault conditions in O₂-enriched atmospheres and on consideration for the safety of chamber occupants.</p>
17) Exposed live electrical parts	Exposed live (energized) electrical parts can be a source of shocks and/or sparks in the event of an electrical fault.	4	No exposed electrical parts (excluding patient monitoring leads) should be present in a RCC unless they have been certified as being intrinsically safe.

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
18) Use of low-voltage, low-power equipment	<p>Low-voltage and low-power equipment is capable of producing sparks.</p> <p>Of even greater concern is the fact that it is capable of overheating under fault conditions.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>3</p>	<p>All sensors and signaling, alarm, communications and remote-control equipment used or intended for use within a RCC should meet the following requirements:</p> <p>a) Equipment should be isolated from AC power (also known as mains power) by either the power supply circuit design, opto-isolation or other electronic isolation methods;</p> <p>b) All leads and cables not enclosed within conduits should be either part of intrinsically safe equipment or limited to less than 28 V_{DC} and 0.5 A under normal or fault conditions;</p> <p>c) The design of chamber speakers should be such that all electrical circuitry and wiring are enclosed, and their rating should not exceed 28 V_{rms} and 25 W; and</p> <p>d) Battery-operated devices should meet the requirements stipulated below.</p> <p>Alternatively, the following equipment configurations are considered acceptable:</p> <p>a) Equipment listed as intrinsically safe for use in Class 1, Division 1, Group B locations;</p> <p>b) Equipment that is totally enclosed and constantly purged by means of an independently supplied, O₂-compatible air source that automatically de-energizes if the air supply fails;</p> <p>c) Equipment that is hermetically sealed, filled with inert gas, positively pressurized and fitted with an automatic de-energization device that trips if the initial pressure (i.e., when sealed) changes by more than 10%; or</p> <p>d) Equipment that has been approved for use by a <i>competent</i> authority and that has the written permission of the safety officer.</p>

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
19) Patient-care devices	The risks associated with the use of electrical medical equipment in a RCC include current leakage, unvented batteries, off-gassing of batteries, sparking, heat-generation and/or explosion or implosion due to inadequate venting.	<p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>4</p>	<p>In addition to the limitations noted above (i.e., a surface temperature of less than 85°C [185°F], an operating voltage of 28 V_{DC} or less and adequate certification and/or testing for use within RCC environments), any patient-care devices used within a chamber should meet the following minimum requirements:</p> <p>a) Be designed and certified as safe for patient-care applications (e.g., per NFPA 99, Chapter 10);</p> <p>b) Electrical and mechanical integrity should be continuously monitored under the facility's maintenance program;</p> <p>c) Devices that utilize O₂ should be designed so that O₂ cannot accumulate in electrical sections under any conditions; and</p> <p>d) Devices have been successfully tested for proper performance over the chamber's full operating pressure range.</p>
20) Use of portable battery-operated electrical or electronic equipment	<p>Any sources or users of electrical power can generate sparks and/or heat.</p> <p>In addition, batteries are a source of toxic and/or flammable gases under fault or heavy-load conditions.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5</p> <p>5</p> <p>4</p>	<p>All such equipment — including permanently installed sensors; communications devices; and signaling, alarm or remote-control equipment — should meet the following criteria:</p> <p>a) Batteries should be fully enclosed and secured within the equipment enclosure;</p> <p>b) Batteries should be compatible with the chamber's maximum operating pressure and be of a sealed type that does not off-gas during normal use;</p> <p>c) Batteries should not be charged while they are inside the chamber;</p> <p>d) Batteries should not be changed while the equipment is located inside the chamber;</p>

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
20) Use of portable battery-operated electrical or electronic equipment (cont.)		4 4	e) Lithium-ion batteries should be excluded unless of the low-voltage type used in implantable devices, or monitored during use for any temperature increase that could result in overheating; and f) The equipment's electrical rating should not exceed 12 V _{DC} and 48 W (28 V _{DC} and 25 W for communications).
21) Chamber grounding	Inadequate grounding compromises the effective functioning of a chamber's IPS as well as of any intrinsically safe equipment, grounded power supplies in terms of protection from electrocution, and control of static electricity in any chambers designed to operate at O ₂ levels above 23.5%.	3	The resistance between the chamber and the ground point should not exceed 1 ohm.
22) Line isolation monitoring	<p>Electrical leakage within a RCC can be a source of both localized hot spots and sparks.</p> <p>Adequate warning of fault situations is required to alert staff to the possibility of the power being shut off and of any consequential damage.</p> <p>All conductors coupled to a grounded power supply present the potential for sparking if contact is made with the chamber shell.</p> <p>High-voltage conductors (i.e., > 120 V_{AC}) represent a significant risk of electrocution.</p> <p>Life-support equipment requires a continuous power supply so as not to jeopardize medical support to patients.</p> <p>Electronic support devices are susceptible to detrimental levels of electrical noise.</p>	3	<p>All AC electrical circuits inside a chamber should be supplied from an ungrounded IPS equipped with a line isolation monitor (LIM). The LIM should meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It should provide a continuous reading of the total hazard current; • It should indicate a normal situation (with a green light) when the system is isolated from ground; and • It should indicate a fault situation (with a red light and an audible alarm) when the leakage of current to ground exceeds the allowable threshold value (typically, 5 mA). <p><u>Note:</u> The trigger limit of 5 mA is set below the accepted "let go threshold" of 7 to 10 mA for AC current.</p> <p>However, it is only a predictive value. It represents current that would flow in the event of a low-impedance connection from either of the two live conductors to ground (not current that is flowing at that moment).</p>

Elements	Risks	RL	Minimum Requirements
23) Protected equipment outside the chamber	A failure of critical electrical equipment outside the chamber in the event of flooding by a deluge system compromises the safety of chamber occupants.	4 3 4 3	a) All equipment that must remain functional for the safe completion of a treatment after activation of a deluge system should be adequately waterproofed. b) Any conduits should be waterproof and, as applicable, be equipped with drains. c) All electrical circuits should be protected so that flooding by water does not constitute a further hazard. d) All electrical equipment should meet national regulations.
24) Ground fault interrupters	Electrical faults are a known source of ignition, equipment failure and even shock.	3 3 3 3	a) All external devices using electrical power, including patient-support equipment, should be supplied from a GFI, line isolation transformer system — providing an inductive link only, as well as indicator/warning lights. (Earth-leakage protection, achieved using a residual current device [RCD], a practice used in some countries, may fulfill these requirements.) b) A secondary circuit-sensing system should be used to sense single or balanced capacitive-resistive faults, as well as current leakage to ground. c) The sensor should be set to activate at a fault current of 30 mA within 300 ms or more stringent, as determined by the electrical system design engineer. d) The full load rating of the GFI should be twice the current rating of the equipment being used.

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Appendix F

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