

PRESS RELEASE:

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**SURVIVAIR AWARDED NIOSH CBRN CERTIFICATION
FOR PANTHER® SCBA**

Smithfield, RI (April 22, 2004) -- The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has certified the Survivair Panther® model SCBA against exposure to chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) agents, officials at the company announced today. Designed to help defend against terrorist attacks in the wake of 9/11, the NIOSH CBRN certification program is intended to give the first responder community assurance that the self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) they would be using in the event of an attack would be effective against weapons of mass destruction.

"This certification has been designed to ensure that CBRN agents will not permeate components of an SCBA or enter the respiratory system of the user at what NIOSH and the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command (SBCCOM) consider to be maximum credible threat concentrations," said Steve Weinstein, Senior SCBA Product Manager for Survivair. "Obviously, it is impossible to defend against every possible contingency, but we feel the NIOSH CBRN certification program is an excellent defensive step, and we are very happy to have passed these rigorous tests."

Testing is done on a pass/fail basis on units and accessories as submitted by the manufacturer. Approved by NIOSH on the first submittal was Survivair's Panther SCBA 4500 psig unit, including all cylinders with locking collar only, the Panther-style bell alarm and warbling whistle alarm, all facepiece and nose-cup sizes (facepieces in black only), the Survivair Kevlar® Headnet™, and a number of accessories including COMPASS® with optional ThermAlert™ DoublePASS™, and Survivair's buddy breather with optional check valve.

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A second submittal is currently undergoing testing to extend the range of Panther SCBA products and accessories able to carry the "CBRN Agent Approved" label.

The Survivair Panther SCBA is well known in the industry for its advanced design, durability, and comfort. Features like a hard-wired Heads-Up-Display (HUD), low-profile second stage regulator, comfortable MightyLight® backpack, and Rapid Intervention Crew/Company Universal Air Connection (RIC UAC), make the Panther one of the safest and most popular SCBAs in the industry.

Survivair, a division of Bacou-Dalloz, Inc., is a leading manufacturer of world-class respiratory protection equipment, protecting firefighters and offering respiratory protection from airborne workplace hazards since 1961. For more than four decades, Survivair has manufactured air purifying respirators (APR), supplied air respirators (SAR), powered air purifying respirators (PAPR) and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). In 1997, Survivair was acquired by Bacou USA, Inc.

In 2001 Dalloz joined with Bacou to form the Bacou-Dalloz Group, the world leader in the design, manufacturing and sale of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The company employs about 6,700 people and operates 48 production facilities. Bacou-Dalloz provides unmatched head-to-toe protection through three strategic business segments: head protection (eye, hearing and respiratory), body protection (gloves, clothes and shoes) and fall protection. Bacou-Dalloz offers a full product range aimed at the manufacturing, construction, telecommunications, medical, public services and other sectors. Its products are available from its distributor partners worldwide.

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For additional product information, contact:

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