

EXTENDED REACH BREATHING APPARATUS SYSTEM (ERBAS)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Extended Reach Breathing Apparatus System (ERBAS)?

The Extended Reach Breathing Apparatus System (ERBAS) is a high pressure, quick-connect, emergency air cylinder refill system.

When is ERBAS used?

ERBAS is designed for use during operations which require personnel to use full Breathing Apparatus (BA) while at a work site, which is at greater distance from the designated safe area than the duration of the emergency air cylinder allows.

Where is ERBAS typically used?

Offshore, ERBAS is typically used for platform leg worksopes where the operatives may have to climb 100 metres up vertical ladders and stairs to a safe area. ERBAS can also be used inside FPSO tanks where the distance travelled may compromise their escape cylinder contents. Likewise, the system can be deployed up flare stacks where the distance may be 100 metres down to safety.

How versatile is the system?

Stork's specialist Breathing Apparatus (BA) team can adapt the system to suit any job or location. The standard High Pressure line package installed provides T pieces every 20 metres, which can be used to supply an ERBAS Station, or be blanked off. Prior to installation, the BA team can carry out a site survey to assess the worksite and determine the locations for the stations.

What are the system's servicing requirements?

The system requires an annual pressure test on the block, lines and fittings, and daily checks are carried out whilst it is in use. ERBAS needs little maintenance, the only tests it must undergo are a leak test, function test and backup cylinder contents check.

What operational support is available?

Stork provides a dedicated team of onshore and offshore technicians to support ERBAS operations. In addition, Stork also offers ERBAS Operator training alongside full Breathing Apparatus User training and Face Fit Testing, which can be delivered both on and offshore, depending on client requirement.

What equipment support is available?

As part of any ERBAS workscope, all equipment is prepared, inspected, maintained and certified by Stork's Breathing Apparatus department. Stork's specialist Shipping department, based in Aberdeen, also provide full logistics support throughout the delivery of all ERBAS worksopes.

What is the average setup time for a system?

Depending on the location of the equipment, worksite and permits, ERBAS can be installed, leak tested and commissioned in a matter of hours.

How much deck space will be taken up for the equipment required?

The equipment required in a laydown area is an HP Compressor and Tempest Cascade Unit or Air Quad. The compressor's footprint is 1.08m(w) x 1.97m(l) x 1.3m(h) with a Gross Weight of 1800Kg. The Tempest is 1.35m(w) x 2.1m(l) x 1.9m(h) with a Gross Weight of 2500Kg.