

**Table 7** Filter types

Filter types				
Colour code	Type	For use against	Class	Other information
<b>White</b>	P	Particles	1 2 3	European standard: EN 143
<b>Brown</b>	A	Organic gases and vapours, boiling point above 65 °C	1 2 3	European standard: EN 14387
<b>Grey</b>	B	Inorganic gases and vapours	1 2 3	European standard: EN 14387 Do not use against carbon monoxide
<b>Yellow</b>	E	SO <sub>2</sub> and other acid gases	1 2 3	European standard: EN 14387
<b>Green</b>	K	Ammonia and its organic derivatives	1 2 3	European standard: EN 14387
<b>Red &amp; white</b>	Hg P3	Mercury	–	European standard: EN 14387 Includes P3 particle filter Maximum use time 50 hours No class number
<b>Blue &amp; white</b>	NO P3	Oxides of nitrogen	–	European standard: EN 14387 Includes P3 particle filter Single use only No class number
<b>Brown</b>	AX	Organic gases and vapours, boiling point at or below 65 °C	–	European standard: EN 14387 Single use only No class number
<b>Violet</b>	SX	Substance as specified by the manufacturer	–	European standard: EN 14387

## When to change filters

### *Particle filters*

16 Particle filters will become clogged and make breathing difficult, possibly resulting in face seal leaks.

17 The following is recommended:

- For TH and TM type filters for fan-assisted respirators, change as instructed by the manufacturer.
- For replaceable filters, it would be good practice to mark the filter visibly with the date it was taken out of the packaging and fitted to the RPE; an in-house replacement date can be added to this marking.

18 Changing particle filters – **hints and tips:**

- Do not use if the shelf-life expiry date on the filters has passed.
- Change when filters are damaged or visibly contaminated.
- Change when they become harder to breathe through. This can happen quickly if the wearer is exposed to very high dust concentrations.

### *Gas/vapour filters*

19 Gas/vapour filters have a limited capacity for removing gases/vapours, so after a time the gas or vapour will pass straight through. This is known as breakthrough. When breakthrough occurs, the RPE offers no protection.

20 Filter life is very difficult to predict because it depends on a large number of factors. They don't last forever.

21 The following is recommended:

- **Filter capacity 1** – Change at least every two days or as instructed by the manufacturer; but if the filter is used for protection against a:
  - carcinogen;
  - respiratory sensitiser;
  - potential carcinogen;
  - substance that may cause allergy or asthma symptoms or breathing difficulties if inhaled;change every day, or as instructed by the manufacturer.
- **Filter capacity 2** – Change at least once a week or as instructed by the manufacturer.
- For **capacity 3 and TM/TH type filters**, you should change as instructed by the manufacturer.
- For replaceable filters, it is good practice to mark the filter visibly with the date it was taken out of the packaging and fitted to the RPE; an in-house replacement date can be added to this marking.

22 Changing gas/vapour filters – **hints and tips:**

- Change filters as instructed by the manufacturer; for example, AX filters are single use only and mercury (Hg) filters have a maximum use time of 50 hours.
- Change before any expiry date marked on the filter.
- Do not use if the expiry date on the filters has passed.
- Change when damaged or visibly contaminated.
- Change before the contaminant can be smelled or tasted.
- Change before the filter life indicated in your risk assessment.