



# SNIFFING OUT SHELF LIFE?

Dear Half-Mast,  
How do I check the shelf life of items in the NBC room like mask canisters or M291 decon kits?

M.T.

Dear Mr. M.T.,

On the Internet, go to Army Electronic Product Support (AEPS) at:

<http://aeprs.ria.army.mil>

You will need to sign in with your AKO password or request an AEPS password by filling out a system access request.

Click the TACOM-SBC link on the left side of the page and then the **PRODUCT INFORMATION** link on the next page. Select the piece of equipment you're researching and hit the **GO** button. The next page provides NSNs and shelf life codes. At the bottom of the page, click **SHELF LIFE INFORMATION**. This brings up lot numbers with their condition codes and expiration dates.

If you can't find what you want or you don't have access to the Internet, call the Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Equipment Hotline at 1-800-831-4408 or email [ceh@ria.army.mil](mailto:ceh@ria.army.mil)

Their website is [http://www.ecbc.army.mil/ps/ce\\_hotline.htm](http://www.ecbc.army.mil/ps/ce_hotline.htm)

THEY'LL NEED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:



- name
- phone number
- fax number (if you have one)
- installation address and country
- branch of service and whether active, Guard or Reserve
- equipment/category (decontamination, for example)
- item
- lot number and quantity in lot number

The lot number contains a manufacturer's name (PBA for Pine Bluff Arsenal, for example), year of manufacture (2-digit number such as 05) and month of manufacture (a letter, starting with "A" for January—"I" is skipped).

*Half-Mast*