



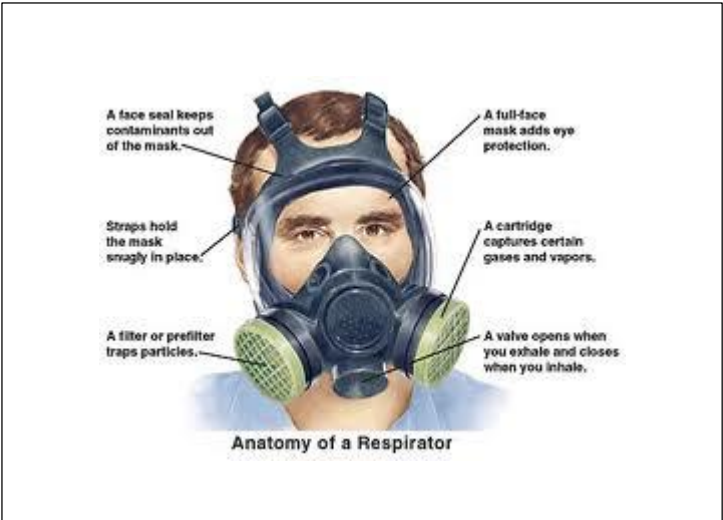
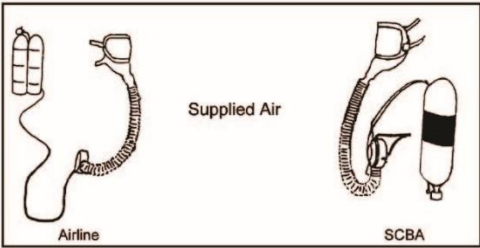
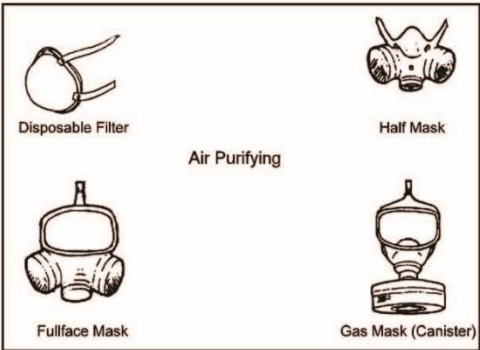
# RESPIRATORY PROTECTION

Respirators must be applicable and suitable for the intended purpose and must be provided by the Company when such equipment is necessary to protect the health of its employees.

## RESPIRATOR SELECTION

Respirators must be selected based on the respirator hazard(s) to which the employee is exposed. Workplace and user factors may affect respirator performance and reliability.

Only NIOSH-certified respirators, or equivalent nationally approved respirators are to be used. They are to be used in compliance with the conditions of their certification.



## RESPIRATORS FOR IDLH ATMOSPHERS (IMMEDIATELY DANGEROUS TO LIFE AND HEALTH)

Employees should not enter spaces that are classified as IDLH or are know to be oxygen deficient. In the event of an emergency, such as a confined space rescue the following respirators should be used:



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- A full facepiece pressure demand self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) certified by NIOSH for a minimum service life of thirty minutes; or, a combination full facepiece pressure demand supplied air respirator (SAR) with auxiliary self-contained air supply.
- Respirators provided only for escape from IDLH atmospheres shall be NIOSH-certified for escape from the atmosphere in which they will be used.

### RESPIRATORS FOR NON-IDLH ATMOSPHERES

Respirators for atmospheres that are not IDLH shall be adequate to protect the health of the employee and ensure compliance with all statutory and regulatory requirements, under routine and reasonably foreseeable emergency situations.

Additionally, the respirator selected shall be appropriate for the chemical state and physical form of the contaminant.

For protection against gases and vapors, the following types of respirators will be provided:

- An atmosphere supplying respirator; or
- An air-purifying respirator that is equipped with an end of service life indicator (ESLI). If there is no ESLI service available a schedule will be developed for change of canisters and cartridges that will ensure that canisters and cartridges are changed before the end of their service life.

For protection against particulates, the following types of respirators will be provided:

- An atmosphere-supplying respirator; or
- An air-purifying respirator equipped with a filter certified as a high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter, or a filter certified for particulates.

### MEDICAL EVALUATIONS

Using a respirator may place a physiological burden on employees. Therefore, medical evaluation may be required to determine the employee's ability to use a respirator.

### FIT TESTING

Before an employee is allowed to use any respirator with a negative or positive pressure tight-fitting facepiece, they must be fit-tested with the same model, style, and size of respirator that will be used. Employees using a tight-fitting facepiece respirator

must pass an appropriate qualitative fit test (QLFT) or quantitative fit test (QNFT).

### USE OF RESPIRATORS

When using a respirator, any condition that may result in facepiece seal leakage is prohibited, such as:

- Facial hair that comes between the sealing surface of the facepiece and the face or that interferes with valve function.
- Any condition that interferes with the face-to-facepiece seal or valve function.
- Corrective glasses, goggles or other personal protective equipment must be worn in a manner that does not interfere with the seal of the facepiece to the face of the user.

A user seal check is to be performed each time a respirator is used.

For a POSITIVE PRESSURE CHECK, close off the exhalation valve by covering with the palm of your hand and exhale gently in the facepiece. The face fit is considered satisfactory if a slight positive pressure can be built up inside the facepiece, without any evidence of outward leakage of air at the seal.



For a NEGATIVE PRESSURE CHECK, close off the inlet opening of the canister or cartridge(s) by covering with the palm of the hand(s) or by replacing the filter seal(s), inhale gently so that the facepiece collapses slightly, and hold the breath for ten seconds. If the facepiece remains in its slightly collapsed condition and no inward leakage of air is detected, the tightness of the respirator is considered satisfactory.





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Appropriate surveillance shall be maintained of work area conditions, including the degree of employee exposure or stress. Employees shall leave the respirator use area:

- To wash their faces and respirator facepieces as necessary to prevent eye or skin irritation associated with respirator use; or
- To replace the respirator or the filter cartridge, or canister elements.
- If they detect vapor or gas breakthrough, changes in breathing resistance, or leakage of the facepiece.

### MAINTENANCE, CARE, & STORAGE

All respirators must be clean, sanitary, and in good working order. Respirators are to be cleaned and disinfected as often as necessary to be maintained in a sanitary condition.

All respirators shall be stored to protect them from damage, contamination, dust, sunlight, extreme temperatures, excessive moisture, and damaging chemicals. They shall be packed or stored to prevent deformation of the facepiece and exhalation valve.



All respirators used in routine situations shall be inspected before each use and during cleaning.

All respirators maintained for use in emergency situations shall be inspected at least monthly and in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations, and shall be checked for proper function before and after each use, and before being carried into the workplace.

Respirators for use in emergency situations shall be placed in a respirator station, suitably mounted in a prominent location.

### IDENTIFICATION OF FILTERS, CARTRIDGES, & CANISTERS

All filters, cartridges and canisters used in the workplace must be labeled and color-coded with the

appropriate approval label. The label should remain intact and contents clearly identifiable.

### CARTRIDGE CHANGE SCHEDULES

Respirator cartridges do not last forever. A change schedule is required as part of the written program that states how often cartridges should be replaced and what information was relied upon to make this judgment. This information includes exposure assessments, breakthrough test data, reliable use recommendations from suppliers, or math models. This information does not include reliance on odor thresholds or other warning properties.

A conservative approach to evaluating service life testing data should be used. Factors affecting service life should be considered and may include temperature, humidity, air flow through the filter, work rate, and the presence of other potential interfering chemicals within the workplace.

### TRAINING

All employees who are required to use respirators must be given training that is comprehensive, understandable, and recur annually or more often if necessary.

The training shall be provided prior to requiring the employee to use a respirator in the workplace. The training shall ensure that each employee can demonstrate knowledge of at least the following:

- Why the respirator is necessary and how improper fit, usage, or maintenance can compromise the protective effect of the respirator.
- What the limitations and capabilities of the respirator are.
- How to use the respirator effectively in emergency situations, including situations in which the respirator malfunctions.
- How to inspect, put on and remove, use, and check the seals of the respirator.
- What the procedures are for maintenance and storage of the respirator.
- How to recognize medical signs and symptoms that may limit or prevent the effective use of respirators.

### WRITTEN PROGRAM AND EVALUATION

A written respiratory protection program is required. The employer must conduct evaluations of the workplace to ensure that the respiratory protection



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program is properly implemented. Employees should be observed and consulted if they have concerns with the program. Ensure that respirators are used properly.

#### **RECORDKEEPING**

Medical evaluations and fit-testing records of all employees required to wear a respirator must be properly retained.

Medical evaluations of employees wearing elastomeric facepiece respirators are also required to be retained.

All records shall be made accessible to the employee.



MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Person Conducting Meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch: \_\_\_\_\_ Division: \_\_\_\_\_

Attendees:

NAME	INITIAL	DATE

NAME	INITIAL	DATE

Additional Items Discussed:

Problem Areas or Concerns:

Comments: