

Town of Mapleton, Castle Hill & Chapman - Employee Safety Training

VOLUNTARY USE OF FILTERING FACEPIECE RESPIRATORS

Review each of the following points with the employee (have employee initial boxes):

1. FILTERING FACE PIECE RESPIRATORS AND OSHA REQUIREMENTS

Filtering face piece Respirators (also called dust masks) are considered true respirators according to OSHA. N95 refers to the NIOSH certification of the filter media that comprises the face piece. N means that it is not oil resistant and 95 refers to it being 95% effective at filtering particles at the 0.3 micron level. N95 is the most common type of filtering face piece respirator. Other NIOSH-certified filtering face piece respirators include R95, P95, N100 and P100.

Voluntary use is defined as use for employee comfort purposes only. No hazard exists that requires use of a respirator and the use of the respirator does not produce any additional hazard. The only acceptable respirator for voluntary use is the filtering face piece respirator. Use of any other type of respirator is prohibited.

OSHA requires that all employees voluntarily wearing filtering face piece respirators receive basic information on respirators as provided in Appendix D of their Respirator Standard, 1910.134 (which is found at the end of this document). – **Review Appendix D with employee. Signature of this training form certifies receipt of Appendix D to 1910.134, as required by OSHA.**

2. HOW TO USE AND WEAR A FILTERING FACE PIECE RESPIRATOR

Inspect respirators prior to use, including new units out of the box. Check for rips and tears. Make sure straps are securely attached, nose piece is attached properly, and that no obvious defects exist.

Proper use of the respirator is important. Without it, the respirator is ineffective against the workplace contaminants. Follow manufacturers' instructions for use. – **Review manufacturer's instructions with employee. Have employee demonstrate proper use.**

Beards and other facial hair negate the effectiveness of the respirator because they prevent an adequate seal between the respirator and the face. Skin afflictions, such as dermatitis, or scars, could affect the ability to produce a seal.

User seal checks confirm that an adequate seal with the face is achieved when the mask is applied. User seal checks should be done every time the mask is put on and every time it is re-adjusted on the face. – **Review manufacturers' instructions for conducting user seal checks with employee.**

3. LIMITATIONS OF PPE

Filtering face piece respirators are only useful for protection against particulates. They are not to be used in oxygen-deficient atmospheres or atmospheres that contain hazards that are immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH). Odors will still be noted when using the respirator because it does not filter out gases or vapors. The respirator will not provide adequate protection if a good seal with the face is not achieved.

4. CARE, MAINTENANCE, USEFUL LIFE AND DISPOSAL OF PPE

Filtering face piece respirators are considered disposable PPE. They cannot be cleaned, especially when they become wet or soiled. They cannot be shared with other employees.

New respirators should be stored in a clean, dry location, protected from sunlight, chemicals, water, and physical damage.

OSHA's Respiratory Protection Standard, 29CFR1910.134

Appendix D to Sec. 1910.134 (Mandatory) Information for Employees Using Respirators When Not Required Under the Standard

Respirators are an effective method of protection against designated hazards when properly selected and worn. Respirator use is encouraged, even when exposures are below the exposure limit, to provide an additional level of comfort and protection for workers. However, if a respirator is used improperly or not kept clean, the respirator itself can become a hazard to the worker. Sometimes, workers may wear respirators to avoid exposures to hazards, even if the amount of hazardous substance does not exceed the limits set by OSHA standards. If your employer provides respirators for your voluntary use, or if you provide your own respirator, you need to take certain precautions to be sure that the respirator itself does not present a hazard.

You should do the following:

1. Read and heed all instructions provided by the manufacturer on use, maintenance, cleaning and care, and warnings regarding the respirators limitations.
2. Choose respirators certified for use to protect against the contaminant of concern. NIOSH, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, certifies respirators. A label or statement of certification should appear on the respirator or respirator packaging. It will tell you what the respirator is designed for and how much it will protect you.
3. Do not wear your respirator into atmospheres containing contaminants for which your respirator is not designed to protect against. For example, a respirator designed to filter dust

particles will not protect you against gases, vapors, or very small solid particles of fumes or smoke.

4. Keep track of your respirator so that you do not mistakenly use someone else's respirator.

With my signature below, I acknowledge receipt of Appendix D to 1910.134, as required by OSHA.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____