HAZARD HIGHLIGHT

Respiratory Standard

The OSHA respirator standard applies to all occupational airborne exposures to contaminated air where the employee is:

- Exposed to a hazardous level of an airborne contaminant; or
- Required by the employer to wear respirators; or
- Permitted to wear respirators

A written respiratory protection program ensures that all employees are properly protected from respiratory hazards. According to 29 CFR 1910.134, employers must create and maintain a site specific written respiratory program if their employees use respiratory protection.

Type of Respirator

There are several different types of respiratory protection, including:

1. **Air-purifying respirator** - Respirators with an air-purifying filter, cartridge, or canister that removes specific air contaminants by passing ambient air through the air-purifying element. (E.g. N95/Half Mask/Full Face/Loose-fitting powered-air-purifying Respirators)

2. **Atmosphere-supplying respirator** - Respirators that supplies the respirator user with breathing air from a source independent of the ambient atmosphere, and includes supplied-air respirators (SARs) and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) units.

In order to select an appropriate respirator you must:

- Conduct an **exposure assessment** to determine the type and amount of hazardous exposure
- Take into account the **factors that can influence respirator selection** such as job-site and worker characteristics
- Know the various **kinds of respirators** and their relevant characteristics
- Understand the **assigned protection factors**

Voluntary vs. Required Use of Respirator Requirements

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Did You Know?

OSHA webpage provides information that may apply to worker exposure to novel coronavirus, COVID-19.

To view the full articles, please go to: https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/

If you would like to read more, find it here: https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/respiratoryprotection/

For more information, please contact HIOSH at: dlir.hiosh@hawaii.gov or 808-586-9100
Respirator-Use Requirements Flow Chart
29 CFR 1910.134 (c)

Are Respirators: Necessary to protect the health of the employee; or, required by the employer?

YES

Must establish and implement a written program with worksite-specific procedures

NO

Does the employer permit voluntary use of respirators?

YES

STOP

NO

Does the only use of respirators involve the voluntary use of filtering facepieces? (e.g. Dust masks)

YES

• Employer determines that the respirator itself does not create a hazard.
• Must provide users with information contained in Appendix D.
• No respirator program required.
• Filtering facepiece is not required to be NIOSH approved but it is strongly recommended.

NO

• Employer determines that the respirator itself does not create a hazard.
• Must provide users with information contained in Appendix D.
• Must establish and implement those elements of a written respirator program necessary to ensure that the employee is medically able to use the respirator.
• Employer is not responsible for cost of respirator but must cover the expense of the medical evaluation, training, and maintenance.

Respiratory Protection Training Video
https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/respiratoryprotection/training_videos.html

If you would like to read more, find it here:
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