
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO
GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF A RESPIRATOR

PURPOSE: This document provides guidance for use of a respirator.

REGULATORY:

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Respiratory Standard

29 CFR 1910.134 - Respiratory protection

29 CFR 1910.134 – Appendix A - Fit Testing Procedures (Mandatory)

29 CFR 1910.134 – Appendix B-1 - User Seal Check Procedures (Mandatory)

29 CFR 1910.134 – Appendix B-2 - Respirator Cleaning Procedures (Mandatory)

29 CFR 1910.134 – Appendix C - OSHA Respirator Medical Evaluation Questionnaire
(Mandatory)

29 CFR 1910.134 – Appendix D - Information for Employees Using Respirators When Not
Required Under the Standard (Mandatory)

RES

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GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF A RESPIRATOR

Disposable Paper Dust Mask

Filtering Facepiece Respirator (FFR)

- ” Disposable
- ” Covers the nose and mouth
- ” Filters out particles such as dust, as well as certain types of mist, and fumes
- ” Select from N, R, P series and 95, 99, 100 efficiency level
- ” Does not provide protection against gasses and vapors
- ” Fit testing required

Air Purifying Respirator (APR)

APRs work by removing gases, particles, vapors, aerosols (droplets and solid particles), or a combination of these contaminants from the air using filters, cartridges, or canisters. These respirators do not supply oxygen and therefore cannot be used in an atmosphere that is oxygen-deficient (<19.5% oxygen) or any atmosphere that is classified as immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH). IDLH means an atmosphere that poses an immediate threat to life, would cause irreversible adverse health effects, or would impair an individual's ability to escape from a dangerous atmosphere. The appropriate respirator for a particular situation will depend on the environmental contaminant(s) and their concentrations.

Elastomeric Half Face Air Purifying Respirator

Particulate Cartridges

Particulate respirators only protect against particles. They do not protect against liquid chemicals, gases, or vapors, and are intended only for low level hazards. Particulate respirators are classified as follows: N, R, P series and 95, 99, 100 efficiency level. They do not provide protection against gasses and vapors. Fit testing is required.

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GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF A RESPIRATOR

Organic vapor respirator cartridges are filled with a material called activated carbon. Activated

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GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF A RESPIRATOR

Medical Evaluation

Employees who are either required to wear respirators or who choose to wear an APR, voluntarily must pass a medical exam by a physician or other licensed health care provider before being permitted to wear a respirator on the job. Employees are not permitted to wear respirators until a physician or other licensed health care provider has determined that they are medically able to do so. An employee refusing the medical evaluation will not be allowed to work in an area requiring respirator use or to perform any task where an employee feels a mask is necessary.

Why can't a respirator be worn?

- " The employee does not have clearance from a licensed health care provider.
- " The employee has any facial hair, which will not allow for a complete seal from the face to the respirator
- " The employee has a medical condition, such as asthma or emphysema
- " The employee is unable to complete/pass the fit test

Fit Testing

Fit testing is required for employees wearing half-facepiece APRs. Employees voluntarily wearing half-facepiece APRs must also be fit tested by a competent person and/or a physician or other licensed healthcare provider.

Employees who are required to wear a tight-fitting respirator facepiece shall be fit tested:

- " Prior to being allowed to use that type of respirator.
 - " Annually
 - " When there are changes in the employee's physical condition that could affect
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GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF A RESPIRATOR

Positive Pressure Check

1. Don the facepiece and adjust so it's snug

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GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF A RESPIRATOR

Repair

Repair of respirators may be done only by experienced personnel with parts designed for the specific respirator needing repair. Parts from different respirators and manufacturers must never be mixed. No attempt may be made to replace parts or to make the adjustments or repairs beyond the manufacturer's recommendations.

Cleaning and Storage

- " Follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- " Do not clean with solvents.
- " Clean and disinfect respirators after each use.
- " Respirators may be cleaned with non-alcohol-containing wipes prior to each use.
- " Remove filters or cartridges and store them in a bag separate from the respirator to prevent cross contamination.
- " Disassemble the respirator and wash

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GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF A RESPIRATOR

APPENDIX A

How



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GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF A RESPIRATOR

APPEXDIX C

The basic parts of a typical elastomeric half-face air-purifying respirator

NOTE: Both sides of the respirator would use the same type of filter or cartridge