

RESPIRATORS

Respirator Procedures for Selection and Use

1. Written standard operating procedures governing the selection and use of respirators shall be established.
2. Where labeling indicates, or where the MSDS recommends or requires the use of a respirator, the MSDS shall also recommend which type of respirator filter is required for use with the chemical.
3. Respirators shall be selected on the basis of hazards to which the worker is exposed.
4. The decision logic for the selection of a respirator shall be as follows:
 - Are their contaminants in the air?
 - What is the concentration of the contaminants?
 - Are the contaminants gaseous or particulate?
 - Does the contaminant have adequate warning properties?
 - Are the contaminants immediately dangerous to health or life?
 - Is there a 19.5% oxygen atmosphere?
 - What protective clothing is needed?
5. The user shall be instructed and trained in the proper use of respirators and their limitations.
6. Respirators shall be regularly cleaned and disinfected.
7. Individuals shall turn in their respirators for cleaning after each use.
8. Have respirators assigned to individuals where possible.
9. Respirators must be inspected, cleaned, and disinfected after equipment usage.
10. The following procedure shall be used for cleaning respirators:
 - a. Remove cartridges and pre-filters
 - b. Wash respirator in a sanitizer
 - c. Rinse thoroughly in clean water
 - d. Lay respirator out to dry
11. Respirators shall be stored in a convenient, clean, and sanitary location, sealed in a large resealable plastic bag.
12. The storage cabinet or container shall be kept in a convenient and cool location. The storage cabinet must protect against extreme cold, heat, sunlight, dust, excessive moisture, and contaminating chemicals.
13. Respirators used routinely shall be inspected during cleaning and parts replaced if necessary.
14. Surveillance of work area conditions and degree of employee exposure shall be conducted.
15. All employees are required to undergo a pre-fit test prior to beginning work to determine their ability to tolerate the use of a respirator.
16. The Safety Coordinator will conduct periodic inspections of employee's selection, use, and fitting of respirators.
17. There shall be regular inspection and evaluation to determine the continued effectiveness of the program.
18. Management shall update procedures where and as needed as recommended by federal, state, or local rules and regulations.
19. It shall be determined that those employees who must wear respirators are physically able to perform the work while using the equipment.
20. All employees are required to have a pulmonary function test prior to beginning work or within a short period of time thereafter to determine their ability to tolerate the use of a respirator, or a self contained breathing apparatus.
21. Only approved respirators shall be used.
22. All respirators shall be approved to insure type and quality will meet requirements of intended use.

Date

June 2003