

Respiratory Protection – Voluntary Use?



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N95 Respirators



OSHA N95 Video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pGXiUyAoEd8>

Written Program



- ⌘ Where respirator use is not required:
 - ☑ Employer may provide respirators or permit employees to use their own **if it will not create a hazard in itself.**
 - ☑ Employer must provide employees with the information contained in Appendix D.

Required Elements



⌘ Employers are not required to include in a written respiratory protection program those employees whose only use of respirators involves the voluntary use of filtering face pieces (dust masks).

Written Program



⌘ Voluntary use

- ☑ Employees whose only use is the voluntary use of filtering face piece respirators do not have to be included in the written respiratory protection program.

Appendix D



⌘ **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.

Fit Testing



⌘ Not required for voluntary use of respirator in non-hazardous environment

Respirator Use



⌘ Facial hair is allowed for voluntary use of respirators in non-hazardous environments

Training



- ⌘ Training required when the only use is voluntary
 - ☑ Employee must be presented with basic advisory information on respirators as presented in Appendix D
 - ☑ information may be presented in written or oral format but simply posting Appendix D is not acceptable

Filtering Face piece and Medical Evaluation.



- ⌘ Voluntary use of filtering face piece does not require written program or medical evaluation
- ⌘ Non-voluntary use of filtering face piece requires written program and medical evaluation.