

October 2023

Respiratory Protection

Respiratory hazards in the workplace should be controlled whenever possible using engineering controls, work practice, or administrative controls. However, if these controls are not feasible or do not provide sufficient protection, workers' may need to utilize respiratory protection. Workers' who are required to use respiratory protection to perform their work activities in the workplace must participate in company respiratory program.

Respiratory Hazards

- Harmful dusts (lead, silica, and other heavy metals)
- Fumes and smokes (welding fume)
- Gases and vapors (chemical exposures)
- Oxygen deficiency (oxidation, displacement, and consumption)
- Biological hazards (tuberculosis, whooping cough, flu viruses)

Respirator Types

- Air-Purifying Respirators (APR) clean the air you breathe using filters, cartridges, or canisters.
- APRs include half face, full face, N-95, and PAPR (powered air purifier respirator).

Respirator Requirements

Prior to issuing respirators, the workplace must first be assessed to determine if there is a need for respiratory protection. If the assessment determines that the use of respiratory protection is required, workers' must be trained, and respirator fit tested prior to respirator use. The respirators must always be inspected prior to donning. The inspection should check for missing or worn respirator parts. Respirator users must know the limitations of their respirator and stay clean shaven in the respirator seal area. Workers' may not share respirators and must only use the respirator for which they have been fitted for the respirators must be cleaned and stored properly after each use.



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