

Voluntary Use of a Respirator

Please read the following information provided in compliance with the Respiratory Protection Standard for employees who voluntarily choose to use a filtering face piece (dust mask). If you have any questions about the standard or wish any other information you may contact the Environmental Health and Safety Department at extension 75179.

Appendix D to §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 encourage, 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 keep clean, the respirator itself can become a hazard to the worker. Sometimes, workers may wear respirator 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 precaution 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 warning regarding the respirators limitation.
2. Choose respirators certified for the use to protect against the contamination 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 atmosphere 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.

I choose to voluntarily use a filtering face piece (dust mask) and have received a copy of Appendix D to §1910.134. I understand that this is the only type of respirator I may use without contacting the EHS Department and being enrolled in the Respiratory Protection Program. If I experience any difficulties while wearing the filtering facepiece I am to immediately cease wearing the filtering face piece and contact the EHS Department.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____ Dept.: _____

Phone Number: _____

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