

Respiratory Protection

1.0 GENERAL

It is necessary to protect employees who may be exposed to harmful mists, smoke, vapors, dusts, particulates, oxygen deficient atmospheres and related hazards. When engineering controls are not feasible or being installed, respiratory protection shall be provided. Where the use of respiratory protection is necessary to prevent potentially harmful exposures, components shall establish a respiratory protection program to coordinate the selection, use, cleaning and maintenance of respiratory protection devices (RPD). The actual exposure must be determined by industrial hygiene personal air monitoring, as described in Industrial Hygiene: Monitoring and Evaluation of Occupational/Environmental Exposure.

2.0 REQUIREMENTS

Each component shall

- 2.1 Identify, document, and analyze workplace hazards associated with potentially harmful respiratory exposures.
- 2.2 Develop and publish standard operating procedures and safe work practices to reduce risk to employees, students, and visitors for identified respiratory hazards.
- 2.3 Provide and document training to affected employees, students, and visitors in standard operating procedures and safe work practices for identified respiratory hazards.

3.0 The Respiratory Protection Program

Where applicable, the provisions of the respiratory protection program for affected personnel should include the following:

- Medical examination of RPD users
- RPD selection protocols
- Respirator fit testing protocols
- Training for respiratory protection
- Individual RPD assignments
- RPD storage, cleaning, disinfection and inspection protocols
- Respiratory protection program evaluation and follow-up

- Record keeping for hazard evaluations, training, medical examination results and recommendations and fit testing as required

3.1 Single-Use Respirators ("dust masks")

Single use respirators, commonly known as "dust masks" or "paper masks" are considered to be air-purifying respirators, and are acceptable for use where levels have been documented to be well below the applicable limits. The primary function of dust masks is to reduce respiratory irritation from low toxicity or nuisance dusts and particulates.

Contact for Interpretation
History

Office of Risk Management and Safety
New Regulation

Recommendation:

Legal Sufficiency

General Counsel

Approval

Associate Vice Chancellor and Treasurer