

Voluntary Use of Respirator

Supervisors: All individuals who voluntarily use respirators must complete and sign a copy of this document.

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, individuals may wear respirators to avoid exposures to hazards, even if the amount of hazardous substance does not exceed the regulatory requirements. 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, care, and warnings regarding the respirator limitations.
2. Choose respirators certified for use to protect against the contaminant of concern. NIOSH, 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 smokes.
4. Keep track of your respirator so that you do not mistakenly use someone else's respirator.
5. Air purifying respirators DO NOT supply oxygen. Do not use in situations where the oxygen levels are questionable or unknown.

Respirator User: _____ netID: _____

Title: _____ email: _____

Supervisor Name: _____ email: _____

Department: _____

Work Tasks: _____

Respirator Type: _____

User Signature: _____

