



RESPIRATORY PROTECTION PROGRAM – APPENDIX D INFORMATION SHEET FOR ELECTIVE RESPIRATOR USE

California Code of Regulations, Section 5144, Appendix D: (Mandatory) Information for Employees Using Respirators When Not Required Under the Standard

This information sheet does not apply to respirators provided by the employer for use during an emergency. Respirator use intended for emergency situations requires affected departments to follow full program requirements.

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 permissible 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.

Workers may sometimes wear a respirator to avoid exposures to hazards, even if the amount of hazardous substance does not exceed the limits set by OSHA standards. Whether you provide your own respirator, or your employer provides a respirator for your voluntary use, 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. A contaminated or moldy respirator can present a serious health hazard.
2. Choose respirators that are certified to protect against the contaminant of concern. Respirators are certified by NIOSH (the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health). A label or statement of certification should appear on the respirator or respirator packaging, which will tell you what the respirator is designed for and to what extent it will protect you. Contact EH&S at 213-740-6448 if you have any questions about respirator selection or use.
3. Do not wear your respirator into atmospheres containing contaminants against which your respirator is not designated to protect. For example, a respirator designed to filter dust particles will not protect you against gases or vapors. Also, a respirator filter will not supply oxygen.
4. Keep track of your respirator so that you do not mistakenly use someone else's respirator.

I understand the potential hazards and limitations of respirator use as explained above and will follow the listed recommendations.

Date

Respirator User's Name (Printed)

Respirator User's Signature