



Voluntary Respirator Usage Notification

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, workers may wear respirators to avoid exposures to hazards, even if the amount of hazardous substance does not exceed the limits set by the labor law standards. 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 appropriate wear and use, maintenance, cleaning/care, and warnings regarding the respirator's limitations.
2. Choose respirators certified for use to protect against the contaminant of concern. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, NIOSH, 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 fume or smoke.
4. Keep track of your respirator so that you do not mistakenly use someone else's respirator.
5. Nuisance masks are not to be considered respirators and should be used only for nuisance dusts and debris. Nuisance masks are made up of single strap units which can be made available to protect against high dust conditions.

Print Name

Signature

Company

Date