

Respirator Protection Plan

Information for Employees Using Respirators When Not Required, Under OSHA Standard Appendix D to Sec. 1910.134 (Mandatory) Information

Respirators can be 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 employees. However, if a respirator is used improperly or not kept clean, the respirator itself can become a hazard to its user. Sometimes, employees may wear respirators 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 precautions to be sure that the respirator itself does not present a hazard:

1. Read and heed all instructions provided by the respirator manufacturer on use, maintenance, cleaning and care, as well as warnings regarding the respirators limitations.
2. Choose respirators certified for use to protect against the contaminant 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 atmospheres containing contaminants for which our 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 have been with a copy of 1910.134 Appendix D above. I have read it and I understand the information regarding the voluntary use of respirators in the workplace. I have had an opportunity to have any questions I may have answered.	
Employee Name	Employee Title
Employee Signature	Date