

1910.134 Respiratory protection requirement	*Filtering face-piece (dust mask)	Elastomeric negative-pressure respirator	Powered-air purifying	Supplied-air respirator
Written respiratory program	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Medical evaluation	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fit-testing	No	No	No	No
Annual training	No	No	No	No
Appendix D (Mandatory information for employees using respirators when not required under the standard.)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Clean, inspect, maintain, store (Follow manufacturer instructions or procedures found in 1910.134, Appendix B-2.)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

29 CFR 1910.134 Appendix D (Employee Information)

If employees have the option to wear respirators/dust masks voluntarily, they must be given Appendix D of the 29 CFR 1910.134, "Information for employees using Respirators/Dust masks when not required under standard." The information below, are the contents of the Appendix D.

Respirators/Dust Masks are an effective method of protection against 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 OSHA standards, the same is true of Dust Masks -- however they provide very limited protection. If your employer provides respirators for your voluntary use, or if you provide your own respirator/dust mask, you need to take certain precautions to be sure that the respirator/dust mask 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 as well as the limitations of a dust mask.
2. Choose respirators certified for use to protect against the contaminant of concern. NIOSH, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health of the US 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/dust mask into atmospheres containing contaminants for which your respirator/dust mask is not designed to protect against. For example, a respirator/dust mask 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/dust mask so that you do not mistakenly use someone else's respirator/dust mask.

RESPIRATORY PROTECTION

OSHA Standard - 29 CFR 1910.134

Personal Protective Equipment - Respiratory Protection

Effective Date - Amended October 5, 1998

The goal in controlling occupational diseases caused by breathing contaminated air is to prevent atmospheric contamination by using effective engineering controls. When this is not feasible, appropriate respirators must be provided and a Respiratory Protection Program must be established. Types of respirators include disposable masks, half-mask air purifying, full facemasks (air purifying), and supplied-air respirators. Enforced by New York State Department of Labor (PESH Unit) (516-228-3970).

COMPLIANCE ISSUES

- Engineering measures to control atmospheric contamination must be instituted where feasible.
- Employers must select and provide appropriate respirators for each job, when necessary, to protect the health of employees. Selection must be in accordance with ANSI Z88.2-1969 and respirators must be both **Mine Safety and Health Act (MSHA)** and **National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)** approved.
- Employers must have a written **Respiratory Protection Program** including standard operating procedures for the selection, use, and care of respirators. The program must be evaluated regularly to determine its effectiveness. A qualified "**Program Administrator**" must oversee the Respiratory Protection Program.
- An employee's physical ability to use a respirator must be determined by **medical evaluation** before he/she starts using a respirator and periodically thereafter (usually annually). The employer shall identify a physician or other licensed health care professional to perform medical evaluations using a medical questionnaire or an initial medical that obtains the same information as the medical questionnaire.
- Employees must use respirators according to instruction and training in the proper use of respirators and their limitations. Dust masks are not covered under the regulation. However, if the employer provides a respirator for **voluntary use** or if the employee provides his/her own respirator in the workplace, the employer is responsible for providing the employee with **Appendix D** of the Standard. Appendix D will explain to the employee **precautions** to be taken when using a respirator.
- Frequent random inspections of proper respirator use must be conducted.
- Proper respirator fit is essential. Respirator wearers must check the face-piece fit each time a respirator is worn. The wearer's diligence in having the proper fit must be evaluated by periodic check. **Fit testing** can be qualitative or quantitative, and must be conducted at least annually.
- Respirators must be cleaned, disinfected, inspected, and maintained regularly.
- Respirators must be stored in a convenient, clean, and sanitary location.
- Surveillance of work area conditions and the degree of employee exposure must be determined.
- Recordkeeping – Requires medical evaluation, fit testing, and written Respiratory Protection Program.

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

- Respirator users and supervisors must be trained in the proper selection, use, maintenance, and limitations of respirators.
- Training must include at least the following:
 1. Why the respirator is necessary and how improper fit, usage and maintenance can make the respirator ineffective.
 2. What the limitations and capabilities of the selected respirator are.
 3. How to use the respirator in emergency situations, including situations in which the respirator malfunctions.
 4. How to inspect, put on and remove, and check the seals of the respirator.
 5. What the respirator maintenance and storage procedures are.
 6. How to recognize medical signs and symptoms that may limit or prevent effective use of the respirator.
 7. The general requirement of the Respiratory Protection Standard.
- Training should be conducted annually.