

# Santa Clarita Community College District



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# RESPIRATORY PROTECTION PROGRAM

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Revised

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## INTRODUCTION

The Santa Clarita Community College District is committed to providing all employees with a safe and healthy work environment. To achieve this objective, the District has developed this written program to establish clear and consistent requirements for practices and procedures to comply with the California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 5144 for Respiration Protection and to protect District employees and auxiliary organizations from harmful exposure to airborne contaminants.

### PURPOSE:

Many operations may contaminate the air with harmful airborne levels of dusts, fogs, fumes, mists, gases, smokes, sprays, vapors, or may involve oxygen-deficient atmospheres. These harmful air contaminants can enter the breathing zone and cause occupational injuries or illnesses to employees working in such atmospheres; therefore, it is essential that exposure to harmful air contaminants be controlled.

The primary objective is to prevent air contamination. The prevention of harmful air contaminants shall be accomplished by engineering controls whenever feasible. Examples of engineering controls may include:

- Enclosure or segregation of the operation
- General or dilution ventilation
- Local or removal ventilation
- Substitution with less toxic substances

Whenever engineering controls are not feasible or do not achieve full compliance to permissible exposure limits or threshold limit values, administrative controls, when practicable, should be implemented. Administrative controls may include such items as work practices and time allotted to hazardous exposures.

Respiratory protective equipment should be used to prevent or reduce exposure to harmful air contaminants only under the following conditions:

- when feasible engineering and administrative controls fail to reduce harmful exposures to employees to a safe level;
- during the time period necessary to install or implement feasible engineering controls;
- while maintenance is being performed on hazardous exhaust ventilation; or in emergencies.

The remaining sections of this document are the written Respiratory Protection Program being implemented by the District.

### COMPLIANCE

This policy applies to all employees and external contractors who function, are employed by, or operate on campus of the Santa Clarita Community College District.

## **DISTRICT POLICY**

### **RESPIRATORY PROTECTION PROGRAM**

#### **1.1 DISTRICT POLICY**

The Santa Clarita Community College District (hereafter referred to as District) is committed to protecting the health, safety and welfare of its employees while they are performing District required jobs. The District will make all reasonable attempts to determine what operations may cause harmful contaminants to be released to the work atmosphere. When an assessment indicates potential air contamination above safe levels, the District will attempt to implement feasible engineering and/or administrative controls to reduce the exposure to a safe level. While the engineering and/or administrative controls are being implemented or if the controls are not adequate, the District will require implementation of a Respiratory Protection Program.

The Respiratory Protection Program will be based on the requirements of:

1. California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 8, Section 5144;
2. 29 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1910.134; and
3. American National Standard Institute (ANSI) Z88.2-1980

Section 2 of this document is the District's Written Respiratory Protection Plan, and as such will contain all pertinent information regarding the Respiratory Protection Program.

#### **1.2 PLAN REVIEW**

To ensure that the written Respiratory Protection Plan remains a viable working document that reflects the current needs and status of the District, the Plan will be reviewed annually by the Program Administrator.

# WRITTEN RESPIRATORY PROTECTION PLAN

## 2.1 PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

The Respiratory Protection Program will be administered by a trained Program Administrator and will be the responsibility of the Director, Human Resources. The Program Administrator will be responsible for the management of this program and for ensuring that all aspects of this program are followed. The Program Administrator will be responsible for:

- Identifying those employees who may need respiratory protection;
- Selecting and providing the proper type (s) of respiratory protection based on employee exposure;
- Providing medical evaluations and fit-testing for respirator users; and
- Providing training to those employees required to use respirators.

## 2.2 DEFINITIONS

**Air-purifying respirator** means a respirator with an air-purifying filter, cartridge, or canister that removes specific air contaminants by passing ambient air through the air-purifying element.

**Air-supplying respirator** means a respirator that supplies the respirator user with breathing air from a source independent of the ambient atmosphere, and includes supplied-air respirators (SARs) and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) units.

**Emergency situation** means any occurrence such as, but not limited to, equipment failure, rupture of containers, or failure of control equipment that may or does result in an uncontrolled significant release of an airborne contaminant.

**Employee exposure** means exposure to a concentration of an airborne contaminant that would occur if the employee were not using respiratory protection.

**End-of-service-life indicator (ESLI)** means a system that warns the respirator user of the approach of the end of adequate respiratory protection, for example, that the sorbent is approaching saturation or is no longer effective.

**Filter cartridge or air purifying element** means a component used in respirators to remove solid or liquid aerosols from the inspired air.

**Filtering facepiece (dust mask)** means a negative pressure particulate respirator with a filter as an integral part of the facepiece or with the entire facepiece composed of the filtering medium.

**Fit factor** means a quantitative estimate of the fit of a particular respirator to a specific individual, and typically estimates the ratio of the concentration of a substance in ambient air to its concentration inside the respirator when worn.

**Fit test** means the use of a protocol to qualitatively or quantitatively evaluate the fit of a respirator on an individual. (See also Qualitative fit test QLFT and Quantitative fit test QNFT.)

**High efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter** means a filter that is at least 99.97% efficient in removing monodisperse particles of 0.3 micrometers in diameter. The equivalent NIOSH 42 CFR 84 particulate filters are the N100, R100, and P100 filters.

**Immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH)** means an atmosphere that poses an immediate threat to life, would cause irreversible adverse health effects, or would impair an individual's ability to escape from a dangerous atmosphere.

**Negative pressure respirator (tight fitting)** means a respirator in which the air pressure inside the facepiece is negative during inhalation with respect to the ambient air pressure outside the respirator.

**Oxygen deficient atmosphere** means an atmosphere with an oxygen content below 19.5% by volume.

**Physician or other licensed health care professional (PLHCP)** means an individual whose legally permitted scope or practice (i.e., license, registration, or certification) allows him or her to independently provide, or be delegated the responsibility to provide, some or all of the health care services required by this program.

**Positive pressure respirator** means a respirator in which the pressure inside the respiratory inlet covering exceeds the ambient air pressure outside the respirator.

**Powered air-purifying respirator (PAPR)** means an air-purifying respirator that uses a blower to force the ambient air through air-purifying elements to the inlet covering.

**Pressure demand respirator** means a positive pressure air-supplying respirator that admits breathing air to the facepiece when the positive pressure is reduced inside the facepiece by inhalation.

**Qualitative fit test (QLFT)** means a pass/fail fit test to assess the adequacy of respirator fit that relies on the individual's response to the test agent.

**Quantitative fit test (QNFT)** means an assessment of the adequacy of respirator fit by numerically measuring the amount of leakage into the respirator.

**Respiratory inlet covering** means that portion of a respirator that forms the protective barrier between the user's respiratory tract and an air-purifying device or breathing air source, or both. It may be a facepiece, helmet, hood, suit, or a mouthpiece respirator with nose clamp.

**Self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA)** means an air-supplying respirator for which the breathing air source is designed to be carried by the user.

**Service life** means the period of time that a respirator, filter or sorbent, or other respiratory equipment provides adequate protection to the wearer.

**Supplied-air respirator (SAR) or airline respirator** means an air-supplying respirator for which the source of breathing air is not designed to be carried by the user.

**Tight-fitting facepiece** means a respiratory inlet covering that forms a complete seal with the face.

**User seal check** means an action conducted by the respirator user to determine if the respirator is properly seated to the face.

### **2.3 WHEN AND WHERE TO BE WORN**

When it is clearly impracticable to remove harmful air contaminants at their source by feasible engineering or administrative controls or by meeting the general requirements of mechanical ventilation systems, or when emergency protection against occasional and/or relatively brief exposure is needed, the District will provide approved respiratory protective equipment. Employees exposed to such hazards will be required to wear the District approved equipment.

Respiratory hazards are classified as:

- Oxygen deficiency;
- Gasses and vapors; and
- Dust, fumes and mists.

There are different types of respiratory protection for each type of hazard. The nature and concentration of specific contaminants are the primary factors to consider when selecting a respirator. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) provide information about the physical and chemical properties of the respiratory hazard, and many cases recommend the type of respirator to be used. If you are in doubt of the type of respirator to use, ask your supervisor.

In some cases, air samples will need to be taken to determine the exact contaminant, and the concentration level.

### **2.4 MEDICAL APPROVAL**

Any District employee required to wear respiratory protective equipment shall not wear such equipment until medically approved. The District will arrange, for each employee required to wear a respirator, sufficient time to complete a medical questionnaire (Appendix D). The medical questionnaire will be reviewed by a physician or licensed health care professional (PLHCP). The PLHCP will determine if the employee is medically cleared for respirator usage or request a follow-up medical examination. A follow-up medical examination will be provided to any employee who gives a positive response to any question in Section 2, Part A, questions 1 – 8 of the medical questionnaire, or any employee so determined by the PLHCP. The follow-up medical examination will include any medical tests, consultations, or diagnostic procedures the PLHCP deems necessary to make a final determination. The PLHCP will provide the District with a written recommendation regarding the employee's ability to use a respirator. The District will provide employees the opportunity to discuss the questionnaire and medical examination results with the PLHCP.

The District will provide to the PLHCP the following information before the PLHCP makes a determination concerning the employee's ability to use a respirator:

- The type and weight of the respirator to be used

- The duration and frequency of respirator use
- The expected physical work effort
- Additional protective clothing to be worn (if any)
- Temperature and humidity extremes that may be encountered
- A copy of the District’s Respiratory Protection Plan and a copy of CCR, Title 8 Section 5144

## 2.5 FIT TESTING

Before any District employee is required to use a respirator (negative or positive-pressure facepiece), the employee must be fit tested with the same make, model, style, and size of the respirator to be used. After the initial fit test, subsequent fit testing will be **conducted annually** for those employees required to use respirators.

Fit tests will be administered using OSHA-accepted qualitative fit test (QLFT) or quantitative fit test (QNFT) protocol. Fit testing of air supplying respirators (SCBA) will be performed in the negative pressure mode regardless of the mode of operation.

Qualitative fit testing will be performed with **Isoamyl Acetate, irritant smoke, or an aerosol saccharin solution**. Quantitative fit testing, when used, will be performed with a Porta-Count or similar instrument.

Complete fit testing procedures are described in Appendix A.

## 2.6 SELECTION AND USE OF RESPIRATORS

The District will select and provide the appropriate respirator based on the respiratory hazards to which the employee will be exposed. A list of District approved respirators (including appropriate filter cartridges) is located in Appendix E. The District can make estimates of respiratory hazards based on contaminants and usage or from monitoring results. Respirator selection must ensure that employee exposure will not exceed published Permissible Exposure Limits (PEL), Threshold Limit Values (TLV), or Short-Term Exposure Limits (STEL). All respiratory equipment must be NIOSH approved and used in compliance with manufacturer’s instructions.

District employees will be limited to the use of negative pressure, air-purifying (filter cartridge) respirators while performing District work. This is based on the foreseeable exposures normally encountered by District employees. The only exception for District employees would be an employee deemed unable to use a negative pressure respirator by the PLHCP. In this case a powered air-purifying respirator (PAR) may be required. These instances will be handled on a case-by-case basis by the Program Administrator.

**2.6.1 AIR-PURIFYING RESPIRATORS (ALSO KNOWN AS CARTRIDGE RESPIRATORS) –** Consist of a half or full-facepiece that contains one or two cartridges. The cartridges act as filters for some gasses and vapors, as well as many types of particulates. The following is a guide of the uses for the different types of cartridges; additionally the MSDS should be checked for the recommended type of cartridge to be used.



1. **Chemical Cartridge** - Chemical Cartridges afford protection against light concentrations of certain gases and vapors, by utilizing chemical filters to remove the contaminant from the air.

In general, chemical cartridge respirators are non-emergency protective devices and are not to be used in atmospheres that are extremely toxic or deficient of oxygen. Additionally, they should not be used against gaseous material that cannot be detected clearly by odor, or by nose or throat irritation. Cartridges should be replaced in accordance with a pre-determined change schedule or whenever odor or irritation can be detected.

Cartridges are available for the following contaminants (Note: These types of cartridges should be used ONLY if it is recommended by the manufacturer or approved by the Program Administrator/Human Resources Office):

- Organic Vapors Cartridges - can be used for contaminants such as toluene, MEK, xylene, etc. Most of these contaminants are typically found in paint, paint thinners, solvents, etc.
  - Acid Gas Cartridges – can be used in situations where low levels of hydrogen chloride, acid gases, or sulfur dioxide will be encountered.
  - Ammonia/Methylamine Cartridges – can be used to filter out low levels of ammonia and methylamine, typically found in insecticides and paint removers.
2. **Particulate** - Particulate matter such as dusts, fumes, and mists are filtered by particulate filters or respirators. Different levels of protection are available depending on the type of particulates and the conditions that will be present during use. Factors such as the amount of dust, whether damp or wet conditions will be present, or if the atmosphere contains any oil vapors must be considered when selecting these filters. Contact your supervisor or the Program Administrator for guidelines on which type of filter is needed. These filters should be used instead of a typical “dust mask” in dusty environments.

Particulate filters should be replaced whenever breathing becomes difficult due to the filter being plugged by retained particles.

3. **Combination** - Cartridges that filter multiple contaminants are available to use in environments where more than one substance exists.

Filter cartridges must be equipped with an end-of-service-life indicator (ESLI). An ESLI is a system to warn the user of the approach of the end of the useful life of the cartridge. This may be a manufacturer’s warning regarding the taste or smell of a contaminant while using the respirator or a system by which filter cartridges are changed out on a periodic basis based on manufacturer’s recommendations. When filter cartridges are to be changed out on a periodic basis, they must be labeled with the date of first use.

Filter cartridges must be labeled and color-coded with the NIOSH approval label.

## 2.6.2 SUPPLIED AIR RESPIRATORS (SAR)

This section describes the air quality requirements that the District will follow when employees are using SAR or Air-line supplied respirators. Supplied air respirators are designed to provide a supply of compressed air to the user and are classified as follows:

1. **Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)** - SCBA's are designed to provide a supply of compressed air in atmospheres that may be immediately dangerous to life and health. These units have a rated service time of 30/60 minutes under average conditions. Depending on your work rate, lung size, etc., you may consume air at a faster or slower rate. When the low-air alarm bell rings, return to a safe area immediately.
2. **Air-Line Respirators** - Air-line respirators have a source of air at a compressor or other large tank. This type of respirator may NOT be used in atmospheres immediately dangerous to life and health unless it is used in conjunction with the five-minute escape cylinder. This limitation is necessary because the user is dependent entirely upon an air supply that is not carried by the user.

Complete respirator selection are described in Appendix E.

## 2.6.3 FIT CHECKS

Employees will be required to perform fit checks before fit testing and each time the respirator is put on before entering a hazardous area. Fit checks assure that the facepiece has an air-tight seal against the users face. Two fit checks will be performed as part of the fit check procedure. These are:

**Positive pressure fit check** - performed by placing the heel of the hand over the exhalation valve cover, pressing lightly and exhaling gently. The facepiece should bulge slightly with no air leaks detected between the face and facepiece; and

**Negative pressure fit check** - performed by placing the palms of both hands over the filter holes or inhalation valves and gently inhaling for 5 to 10 seconds. The facepiece should collapse slightly with no air leaks detected between the face and facepiece.

If air leakage is detected for either of the two checks, then 1) the respirator should be repositioned on the face; 2) the straps tension should be readjusted; or 3) the respirator should be changed.

Complete user fit check procedures are described in Appendix A.

## 2.6.4 LIMITATIONS

Facial hair, scars, or other circumstances which interferes with the sealing surface of a respirator renders the respirator ineffective against protecting from harmful air contaminants. Therefore, the District will not permit any employee to be trained, fit tested or wear a respirator in a restricted area if that employee has facial or any other hair which contacts or interferes with the respirator sealing surface. Any such

interfering hair must be moved or removed to avoid compromising the respirator seal.

The use of air-purifying, filter cartridge respirators is strictly prohibited in oxygen deficient atmospheres. Only supplied-air SCBA respirators may be used in these atmospheres.

### **2.6.5 ATMOSPHERES IMMEDIATELY DANGEROUS TO LIFE OR HEALTH (IDLH)**

Atmospheres immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH) are those atmospheres that pose an immediate threat to life, would cause irreversible health effects, or impair an individual's ability to escape. The only District employees that may foreseeably be exposed to an IDLH atmosphere would be District Personnel trained and equipped to provide effective emergency rescue. In instances where IDLH atmospheres are encountered the following shall apply:

- Only trained and equipped District employees may enter spaces/areas;
- The only approved respirator will be a full-face pressure demand SCBA;
- A minimum of two persons, equipped with SCBA's must be on the job;
- A minimum of one person, equipped with SCBA must be available as a standby;
- Communication (visual, voice, signal line) must be maintained between all individuals present;
- The standby person must be trained and equipped to provide effective emergency rescue.

### **2.7 BREATHING AIR QUALITY – SUPPLIED AIR ONLY**

This section describes the air quality requirements that the District will follow when employees are using SCBA or air line-supplied respirators (Only District Personnel trained and equipped to provide effective emergency rescue).

The supplied-air system typically will consist of an SCBA or compressor, air delivery lines, air cleaning apparatus, a reserve air supply and NIOSH approved masks. The system will provide at minimum, the following:

- A continuous sufficient supply of air
- Air meeting Grade D requirements
- Adequate escape time
- NIOSH approved respirators and air supply hoses

Breathing air (compressed air, compressed oxygen, liquid air and liquid oxygen) will be of high purity, free from harmful dusts, fumes, mists, vapors or gases, and meet the following Grade D requirements:

- Oxygen 19.5% to 23.5%
- Condensed hydrocarbons less than 5 milligrams per cubic meter
- Carbon Monoxide less than 10 ppm
- Carbon Dioxide less than 1,000 ppm
- No pronounced or objectionable odors

Oxygen will meet the requirements of the United States Pharmacopoeia for medical or breathing

oxygen. Compressed oxygen will not be permitted for use in supplied air respirators or in open circuit self-contained breathing apparatus that have previously used compressed air. Oxygen must never be used with air line respirators.

Breathing air may be supplied from cylinders or air compressors.

Breathing gas containers will be clearly and legibly identified with the word AIR or OXYGEN as appropriate with letters at least 1/25 the diameter of the cylinder but never less than 1/8". The letters will be stenciled, stamped or labeled as near the valve end as possible.

If a compressor is necessary, then the compressor will be a breathing air-type compressor. The compressor will be equipped with the necessary safety and standby devices. In addition to being constructed and situated so as to prevent the entry of contaminated air into the system, the compressor will have suitable in-line air purifying sorbent beds and filters installed to further assure breathing air quality. A receiver of sufficient capacity will be provided to enable the respirator wearer to escape from a contaminated atmosphere should the compressor fail. The compressor will be equipped with alarms to indicate a compressor failure or overheating. Oil-lubricated compressors will be equipped with:

- a continuous reading carbon monoxide monitoring system set to alarm if the carbon monoxide concentration reaches 10 ppm;
- or a high temperature alarm set at 110% of the normal operating temperature;
- or both.

If only a high temperature alarm is used, the air from the compressor will be tested for carbon monoxide concentrations for each use or weekly, whichever is less frequent. All compressor alarms will be tested at least monthly. The results for all testing will be documented and maintained by the Public Safety Department for at least six (6) months.

All air line couplings will be incompatible with outlets for other gas systems to prevent inadvertent servicing of air-line respirators with non-respirable gases or oxygen.

The air pressure at the hose connection to positive pressure respiratory equipment will be maintained within the range specified by the equipment.

## **2.8 RESPIRATOR INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE**

The District will require a maintenance program for all respiratory protective equipment issued to and used by District personnel. The Program Administrator will ensure that the maintenance program has been implemented and is being followed. Damage or defects discovered during any portion of the maintenance program shall be brought to the attention of Program Administrator, who will ensure that appropriate corrective action is taken.

### **2.8.1 RESPIRATOR INSPECTION**

All respiratory equipment will be inspected under the following schedule:

- Before and after each use by the wearer

- After cleaning and disinfection
- After each use, but at least monthly for respirators not routinely used which are kept ready for emergency use

Any damage noted by the inspection should be reported to Program Administrator immediately. Respirators found damaged or defective will be immediately removed from service and will not be returned to service until properly repaired.

## **2.8.2 RESPIRATOR CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE**

The District will provide appropriate cleansing and sanitizing materials. The respirator user will be responsible for cleaning and sanitizing respirators as frequently as necessary to ensure sanitary protection is provided the wearer. Respiratory protective equipment that may be used by more than one individual will never be passed from one person to another until it has been cleaned and sanitized.

Respirator cleaning is to be done in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. However, as a minimum guideline, each respirator should be cleaned in a mild soap solution, double rinsed and air dried prior to storage. The Program Administrator will ensure that all cleaning and maintenance guidelines are followed.

Complete respirator inspection and maintenance procedures are described in Appendix C.

## **2.8.3 RESPIRATOR STORAGE**

After cleaning, inspection, and air drying, the respirator shall be stored to protect against dust, sunlight, extreme temperatures, excessive moisture, or damaging chemicals. Respirators placed at work stations for emergency use will only be stored in clearly marked compartments or containers designed for that purpose and will be located where they are quickly accessible. Routinely used respirators may be placed in plastic bags and stored in cabinets, lockers or tool boxes, provided that the facepiece and exhalation valve rest in a normal position and their functioning will not be impaired by the elastic setting in an abnormal position. Cartridge filters may also be stored in plastic bags, but separately from the clean respirator.

Air-purifying respirators that are not in use shall be stored in a plastic "Zip-Lock" bag and place inside the original container or other substitute container.

Supplied air respirators shall be stored in their original container

## **2.8.4 WEAR AND DETERIORATION**

The District requires each employee required to wear respiratory protective equipment to notify the Program Administrator of any damage, defects, wear or deterioration found in their equipment. The District will repair or replace respiratory protective equipment as required due to wear or deterioration.

## **2.9 EMPLOYEE TRAINING**

To ensure proper respirator selection, use, maintenance and storage, the District will provide all

employees required to wear respiratory protection with education and training. The education and training will consist of the following:

- Medical evaluations
- Selection, use and limitations of respirators
- Proper inspection and donning of the respirator
- Fit checks: how to do and frequency
- Fit testing
- Procedures to follow if an atmosphere immediately hazardous to life or health is encountered
- How to care for, maintain, and store the respirator

### **2.9.1 REFRESHER TRAINING**

Refresher training for employees required to use respiratory protection will be conducted annually. Refresher training will include the elements described in Section 2.9.

### **2.10 VOLUNTARY RESPIRATOR USE**

There may be occasions where employees opt to wear respirators although respirator use would not be required under this program. This type of usage is termed “voluntary use”. In these cases, the District may supply the respirator or the employee may furnish their own. If an employee chooses to voluntarily use a respirator the District must ensure the following:

- The voluntary usage will not itself create a hazard
- That the employee opting for voluntary use be medically approved to use the respirator (Section 2.4)
- The respirator is cleaned, stored, and maintained properly, and
- The information contained in Appendix F is provided to the employee.

**Exception: voluntary use respirator requirements do not include filtering facepieces such as dust masks.**

### **2.11 DOCUMENTATION AND RECORDKEEPING**

The Program Administrator will ensure that the following records are kept as part of the District Respiratory Protective Equipment Program:

- Employee education and training documentation
- Fit testing results
- Medical approvals
- Workplace air monitoring results
- Inspections of respirators designated for emergency use, with a record of the most recent inspection maintained on the respirator or its storage container.

The original records will be retained by departmental supervisors and a copy of the records will be retained by Program Administrator.

**APPENDIX A**  
**FIT TESTING PROCEDURES**



## OSHA Fit Testing Procedures

<http://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/5144a.html>

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### Part I. OSHA-Accepted Fit Test Protocols

A. Fit Testing Procedures--General Requirements. The employer shall conduct fit testing using the following procedures. The requirements in this appendix apply to all OSHA-accepted fit test methods, both QLFT and QNFT.

1. The test subject shall be allowed to pick the most acceptable respirator from a sufficient number of respirator models and sizes so that the respirator is acceptable to, and correctly fits, the user.
2. Prior to the selection process, the test subject shall be shown how to put on a respirator, how it should be positioned on the face, how to set strap tension and how to determine an acceptable fit. A mirror shall be available to assist the subject in evaluating the fit and positioning of the respirator. This instruction may not constitute the subject's formal training on respirator use, because it is only a review.
3. The test subject shall be informed that he/she is being asked to select the respirator that provides the most acceptable fit. Each respirator represents a different size and shape, and if fitted and used properly, will provide adequate protection.
4. The test subject shall be instructed to hold each chosen facepiece up to the face and eliminate those that obviously do not give an acceptable fit.
5. The more acceptable facepieces are noted in case the one selected proves unacceptable; the most comfortable mask is donned and worn at least five minutes to assess comfort. Assistance in assessing comfort can be given by discussing the points in the following item A.6. If the test subject is not familiar with using a particular respirator, the test subject shall be directed to don the mask several times and to adjust the straps each time to become adept at setting proper tension on the straps.
6. Assessment of comfort shall include a review of the following points with the test subject and allowing the test subject adequate time to determine the comfort of the respirator.
  - (a) Position of the mask on the nose
  - (b) Room for eye protection
  - (c) Room to talk
  - (d) Position of mask on face and cheeks
7. The following criteria shall be used to help determine the adequacy of the respirator fit:
  - (a) Chin properly placed;

- (b) Adequate strap tension, not overly tightened;
- (c) Fit across nose bridge;
- (d) Respirator of proper size to span distance from nose to chin;
- (e) Tendency of respirator to slip;
- (f) Self-observation in mirror to evaluate fit and respirator position.

8. The test subject shall conduct a user seal check, either the negative and positive pressure seal checks described in Appendix B-1 or those recommended by the respirator manufacturer which provide equivalent protection to the procedures in Appendix B-1. Before conducting the negative and positive pressure checks, the subject shall be told to seat the mask on the face by moving the head from side-to-side and up and down slowly while taking in a few slow deep breaths. Another facepiece shall be selected and retested if the test subject fails the user seal check tests.

9. The test shall not be conducted if there is any hair growth between the skin and the facepiece sealing surface, such as stubble beard growth, beard, mustache or sideburns which cross the respirator sealing surface. Any type of apparel which interferes with a satisfactory fit shall be altered or removed.

10. If a test subject exhibits difficulty in breathing during the tests, she or he shall be referred to a physician or other licensed health care professional, as appropriate, to determine whether the test subject can wear a respirator while performing her or his duties.

11. If the employee finds the fit of the respirator unacceptable, the test subject shall be given the opportunity to select a different respirator and to be retested.

12. Exercise regimen. Prior to the commencement of the fit test, the test subject shall be given a description of the fit test and the test subject's responsibilities during the test procedure. The description of the process shall include a description of the test exercises that the subject will be performing. The respirator to be tested shall be worn for at least 5 minutes before the start of the fit test.

13. The fit test shall be performed while the test subject is wearing any applicable safety equipment that may be worn during actual respirator use which would interfere with respirator fit.

14. Test Exercises.

(a) The following test exercises are to be performed for all fit testing methods prescribed in this appendix, except for the CNP method. A separate fit testing exercise regimen is contained in the CNP protocol. The test subject shall perform exercises, in the test environment, in the following manner:

(1) Normal breathing. In a normal standing position, without talking, the subject shall breathe normally.

(2) Deep breathing. In a normal standing position, the subject shall breathe slowly and deeply, taking caution so as not to hyperventilate.

(3) Turning head side to side. Standing in place, the subject shall slowly turn his/her head from side to side between the extreme positions on each side. The head shall be held at each extreme momentarily so the subject can inhale at each side.

(4) Moving head up and down. Standing in place, the subject shall slowly move his/her head up and down. The subject shall be instructed to inhale in the up position (i.e., when looking toward the ceiling).

(5) Talking. The subject shall talk out loud slowly and loud enough so as to be heard clearly by the test conductor. The subject can read from a prepared text such as the Rainbow Passage, count backward from 100, or recite a memorized poem or song.

#### Rainbow Passage

“When the sunlight strikes raindrops in the air, they act like a prism and form a rainbow. The rainbow is a division of white light into many beautiful colors. These take the shape of a long round arch, with its path high above, and its two ends apparently beyond the horizon. There is, according to legend, a boiling pot of gold at one end. People look, but no one ever finds it. When a man looks for something beyond reach, his friends say he is looking for the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.”

(6) Grimace. The test subject shall grimace by smiling or frowning. (This applies only to QNFT testing; it is not performed for QLFT)

(7) Bending over. The test subject shall bend at the waist as if he/she were to touch his/her toes. Jogging in place shall be substituted for this exercise in those test environments such as shroud type QNFT or QLFT units that do not permit bending over at the waist.

(8) Normal breathing. Same as exercise (1).

(b) Each test exercise shall be performed for one minute except for the grimace exercise which shall be performed for 15 seconds. The test subject shall be questioned by the test conductor regarding the comfort of the respirator upon completion of the protocol. If it has become unacceptable, another model of respirator shall be tried. The respirator shall not be adjusted once the fit test exercises begin. Any adjustment voids the test, and the fit test must be repeated.

### B. Qualitative Fit Test (QLFT) Protocols

#### 1. General

(a) The employer shall ensure that persons administering QLFT are able to prepare test solutions, calibrate equipment and perform tests properly, recognize invalid tests, and ensure that test equipment is in proper working order.

(b) The employer shall ensure that QLFT equipment is kept clean and well maintained so as to operate within the parameters for which it was designed.

#### 2. Isoamyl Acetate Protocol

Note: This protocol is not appropriate to use for the fit testing of particulate respirators. If used to fit test particulate respirators, the respirator must be equipped with an organic vapor filter.

(a) Odor Threshold Screening. Odor threshold screening, performed without wearing a respirator, is intended to determine if the individual tested can detect the odor of isoamyl acetate at low levels.

- (1) Three 1 liter glass jars with metal lids are required.
- (2) Odor-free water (e.g., distilled or spring water) at approximately 25 deg. C (77 deg. F) shall be used for the solutions.
- (3) The isoamyl acetate (IAA) (also known as isopentyl acetate) stock solution is prepared by adding 1 ml of pure IAA to 800 ml of odor-free water in a 1 liter jar, closing the lid and shaking for 30 seconds. A new solution shall be prepared at least weekly.
- (4) The screening test shall be conducted in a room separate from the room used for actual fit testing. The two rooms shall be well-ventilated to prevent the odor of IAA from becoming evident in the general room air where testing takes place.
- (5) The odor test solution is prepared in a second jar by placing 0.4 ml of the stock solution into 500 ml of odor-free water using a clean dropper or pipette. The solution shall be shaken for 30 seconds and allowed to stand for two to three minutes so that the IAA concentration above the liquid may reach equilibrium. This solution shall be used for only one day.
- (6) A test blank shall be prepared in a third jar by adding 500 cc of odor-free water.
- (7) The odor test and test blank jar lids shall be labeled (e.g., 1 and 2) for jar identification. Labels shall be placed on the lids so that they can be peeled off periodically and switched to maintain the integrity of the test.
- (8) The following instruction shall be typed on a card and placed on the table in front of the two test jars (i.e., 1 and 2): "The purpose of this test is to determine if you can smell banana oil at a low concentration. The two bottles in front of you contain water. One of these bottles also contains a small amount of banana oil. Be sure the covers are on tight, then shake each bottle for two seconds. Unscrew the lid of each bottle, one at a time, and sniff at the mouth of the bottle. Indicate to the test conductor which bottle contains banana oil."
- (9) The mixtures used in the IAA odor detection test shall be prepared in an area separate from where the test is performed, in order to prevent olfactory fatigue in the subject.
- (10) If the test subject is unable to correctly identify the jar containing the odor test solution, the IAA qualitative fit test shall not be performed.
- (11) If the test subject correctly identifies the jar containing the odor test solution, the test subject may proceed to respirator selection and fit testing.

(b) Isoamyl Acetate Fit Test

- (1) The fit test chamber shall be a clear 55-gallon drum liner suspended inverted over a 2-foot diameter frame so that the top of the chamber is about 6 inches above the test subject's head. If no drum liner is available, a similar chamber shall be constructed using plastic sheeting. The inside top center of the chamber shall have a small hook attached.
- (2) Each respirator used for the fitting and fit testing shall be equipped with organic vapor cartridges or offer protection against organic vapors.
- (3) After selecting, donning, and properly adjusting a respirator, the test subject shall wear it to the fit testing room. This room shall be separate from the room used for odor threshold screening and respirator selection, and shall be well-ventilated, as by an exhaust fan or lab hood, to prevent general room contamination.
- (4) A copy of the test exercises and any prepared text from which the subject is to read shall be taped to the inside of the test chamber.
- (5) Upon entering the test chamber, the test subject shall be given a 6-inch by 5-inch piece of paper towel, or other porous, absorbent, single-ply material, folded in half and wetted with 0.75 ml of pure IAA. The test subject shall hang the wet towel on the hook at the top of the chamber. An IAA test swab or ampule may be substituted for the IAA wetted paper towel provided it has been demonstrated that the alternative IAA source will generate an IAA test atmosphere with a concentration equivalent to that generated by the paper towel method.
- (6) Allow two minutes for the IAA test concentration to stabilize before starting the fit test exercises. This would be an appropriate time to talk with the test subject; to explain the fit test, the importance of his/her cooperation, and the purpose for the test exercises; or to demonstrate some of the exercises.
- (7) If at any time during the test, the subject detects the banana-like odor of IAA, the test is failed. The subject shall quickly exit from the test chamber and leave the test area to avoid olfactory fatigue.
- (8) If the test is failed, the subject shall return to the selection room and remove the respirator. The test subject shall repeat the odor sensitivity test, select and put on another respirator, return to the test area and again begin the fit test procedure described in (b) (1) through (7) above. The process continues until a respirator that fits well has been found. Should the odor sensitivity test be failed, the subject shall wait at least 5 minutes before retesting. Odor sensitivity will usually have returned by this time
- (9) If the subject passes the test, the efficiency of the test procedure shall be demonstrated by having the e respirator face seal and take a breath before exiting the chamber.
- (10) When the test subject leaves the chamber, the subject shall remove the saturated towel and return it to the person conducting the test, so that there is no significant

IAA concentration buildup in the chamber during subsequent tests. The used towels shall be kept in a self-sealing plastic bag to keep the test area from being contaminated.

3. Saccharin Solution Aerosol Protocol. The entire screening and testing procedure shall be explained to the test subject prior to the conduct of the screening test.

(a) Taste threshold screening. The saccharin taste threshold screening, performed without wearing a respirator, is intended to determine whether the individual being tested can detect the taste of saccharin.

(1) During threshold screening as well as during fit testing, subjects shall wear an enclosure about the head and shoulders that is approximately 12 inches in diameter by 14 inches tall with at least the front portion clear and that allows free movements of the head when a respirator is worn. An enclosure substantially similar to the 3M hood assembly, parts # FT 14 and # FT 15 combined, is adequate.

(2) The test enclosure shall have a 3/4-inch (1.9 cm) hole in front of the test subject's nose and mouth area to accommodate the nebulizer nozzle.

(3) The test subject shall don the test enclosure. Throughout the threshold screening test, the test subject shall breathe through his/her slightly open mouth with tongue extended. The subject is instructed to report when he/she detects a sweet taste.

(4) Using a DeVilbiss Model 40 Inhalation Medication Nebulizer or equivalent, the test conductor shall spray the threshold check solution into the enclosure. The nozzle is directed away from the nose and mouth of the person. This nebulizer shall be clearly marked to distinguish it from the fit test solution nebulizer.

(5) The threshold check solution is prepared by dissolving 0.83 gram of sodium saccharin USP in 100 ml of warm water. It can be prepared by putting 1 ml of the fit test solution (see (b)(5) below) in 100 ml of distilled water.

(6) To produce the aerosol, the nebulizer bulb is firmly squeezed so that it collapses completely, then released and allowed to fully expand.

(7) Ten squeezes are repeated rapidly and then the test subject is asked whether the saccharin can be tasted. If the test subject reports tasting the sweet taste during the ten squeezes, the screening test is completed. The taste threshold is noted as ten regardless of the number of squeezes actually completed.

(8) If the first response is negative, ten more squeezes are repeated rapidly and the test subject is again asked whether the saccharin is tasted. If the test subject reports tasting the sweet taste during the second ten squeezes, the screening test is completed. The taste threshold is noted as twenty regardless of the number of squeezes actually completed.

(9) If the second response is negative, ten more squeezes are repeated rapidly and the test subject is again asked whether the saccharin is tasted. If the test subject reports tasting the sweet taste during the third set of ten squeezes, the screening test is

completed. The taste threshold is noted as thirty regardless of the number of squeezes actually completed.

(10) The test conductor will take note of the number of squeezes required to solicit a taste response.

(11) If the saccharin is not tasted after 30 squeezes (step 10), the test subject is unable to taste saccharin and may not perform the saccharin fit test.

Note to subsection 3. (a): If the test subject eats or drinks something sweet before the screening test, he/she may be unable to taste the weak saccharin solution.

(12) If a taste response is elicited, the test subject shall be asked to take note of the taste for reference in the fit test.

(13) Correct use of the nebulizer means that approximately 1 ml of liquid is used at a time in the nebulizer body.

(14) The nebulizer shall get thoroughly rinsed in water, shaken dry, and refilled at least each morning and afternoon or at least every four hours.

(b) Saccharin solution aerosol fit test procedure.

(1) The test subject may not eat, drink (except for plain water), smoke, or chew gum for 15 minutes before the test.

(2) The fit test uses the same enclosure described in 3. (a) above.

(3) The test subject shall don the enclosure while wearing the respirator selected in section I. A. of this appendix. The respirator shall be properly adjusted and equipped with a particulate filter(s).

(4) A second DeVilbiss Model 40 Inhalation Medication Nebulizer or equivalent is used to spray the fit test solution into the enclosure. This nebulizer shall be clearly marked to distinguish it from the screening test solution nebulizer.

(5) The fit test solution is prepared by adding 83 grams of sodium saccharin to 100 ml of warm water.

(6) As before, the test subject shall breathe through the slightly open mouth with the tongue extended, and report if he/she tastes the sweet taste of saccharin.

(7) The nebulizer is inserted into the hole in the front of the enclosure and an initial concentration of saccharin fit test solution is sprayed into the enclosure using the same number of squeezes (either 10, 20 or 30 squeezes) based on the number of squeezes required to elicit a taste response as noted during the screening test. A minimum of 10 squeezes is required.

(8) After generating the aerosol, the test subject shall be instructed to perform the exercises in section I. A. 14. of this appendix.

(9) Every 30 seconds the aerosol concentration shall be replenished using one half the original number of squeezes used initially (e.g., 5, 10, or 15).

(10) The test subject shall indicate to the test conductor if at any time during the fit test the taste of saccharin is detected. If the test subject does not report tasting the saccharin, the test is passed. (11) If the taste of saccharin is detected, the fit is deemed unsatisfactory and the test is failed. A different respirator shall be tried and the entire test procedure is repeated (taste threshold screening and fit testing).

(12) Since the nebulizer has a tendency to clog during use, the test operator must make periodic checks of the nebulizer to ensure that it is not clogged. If clogging is found at the end of the test session, the test is invalid.

5. Irritant Smoke (Stannic Chloride) Protocol. This qualitative fit test uses a person's response to the irritating chemicals released in the "smoke" produced by a stannic chloride ventilation smoke tube to detect leakage into the respirator.

(a) General Requirements and Precautions.

(1) The respirator to be tested shall be equipped with high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) or P100 series filter(s).

(2) Only stannic chloride smoke tubes shall be used for this protocol.

(3) No form of test enclosure or hood for the test subject shall be used.

(4) The smoke can be irritating to the eyes, lungs, and nasal passages. The test conductor shall take precautions to minimize the test subject's exposure to irritant smoke. Sensitivity varies, and certain individuals may respond to a greater degree to irritant smoke. Care shall be taken when performing the sensitivity screening checks that determine whether the test subject can detect irritant smoke to use only the minimum amount of smoke necessary to elicit a response from the test subject.

(5) The fit test shall be performed in an area with adequate ventilation to prevent exposure of the person conducting the fit test or the build-up of irritant smoke in the general atmosphere.

(b) Sensitivity Screening Check. The person to be tested must demonstrate his or her ability to detect a weak concentration of the irritant smoke.

(1) The test operator shall break both ends of a ventilation smoke tube containing stannic chloride, and attach one end of the smoke tube to a low flow air pump set to deliver 200 milliliters per minute, or an aspirator squeeze bulb. The test operator shall cover the other end of the smoke tube with a short piece of tubing to prevent potential injury from the jagged end of the smoke tube.

(2) The test operator shall advise the test subject that the smoke can be irritating to the eyes, lungs, and nasal passages and instruct the subject to keep his/her eyes closed while the test is performed.



(3) The test subject shall be allowed to smell a weak concentration of the irritant smoke before the respirator is donned to become familiar with its irritating properties and to determine if he/she can detect the irritating properties of the smoke. The test operator shall carefully direct a small amount of the irritant smoke in the test subject's direction to determine that he/she can detect it.

(c) Irritant Smoke Fit Test Procedure

(1) The person being fit tested shall don the respirator without assistance, and perform the required user seal check(s).

(2) The test subject shall be instructed to keep his/her eyes closed.

(3) The test operator shall direct the stream of irritant smoke from the smoke tube toward the face seal area of the test subject, using the low flow pump or the squeeze bulb. The test operator shall begin at least 12 inches from the facepiece and move the smoke stream around the whole perimeter of the mask. The operator shall gradually make two more passes around the perimeter of the mask, moving to within six inches of the respirator.

(4) If the person being tested has not had an involuntary response and/or detected the irritant smoke, proceed with the test exercises.

(5) The exercises identified in section I.A. 14. of this appendix shall be performed by the test subject while the respirator seal is being continually challenged by the smoke, directed around the perimeter of the respirator at a distance of six inches.

(6) If the person being fit tested reports detecting the irritant smoke at any time, the test is failed. The person being retested must repeat the entire sensitivity check and fit test procedure.

(7) Each test subject passing the irritant smoke test without evidence of a response (involuntary cough, irritation) shall be given a second sensitivity screening check, with the smoke from the same smoke tube used during the fit test, once the respirator has been removed, to determine whether he/she still reacts to the smoke. Failure to evoke a response shall void the fit test.

(8) If a response is produced during this second sensitivity check, then the fit test is passed.

C. Quantitative Fit Test (QNFT) Protocols. The following quantitative fit testing procedures have been demonstrated to be acceptable: Quantitative fit testing using a non-hazardous test aerosol (such as corn oil, polyethylene glycol 400 [PEG 400], di-2-ethyl hexyl sebacate [DEHS], or sodium chloride) generated in a test chamber, and employing instrumentation to quantify the fit of the respirator; Quantitative fit testing using ambient aerosol as the test agent and appropriate instrumentation (condensation nuclei counter) to quantify the respirator fit; Quantitative fit testing using controlled negative pressure and appropriate instrumentation to measure the volumetric leak rate of a facepiece to quantify the respirator fit.

1. General

(a) The employer shall ensure that persons administering QNFT are able to calibrate equipment and perform tests properly, recognize invalid tests, calculate fit factors properly and ensure that test equipment is in proper working order.

(b) The employer shall ensure that QNFT equipment is kept clean, and is maintained and calibrated according to the manufacturer's instructions so as to operate at the parameters for which it was designed.

3. Ambient aerosol condensation nuclei counter (CNC) quantitative fit testing protocol. The ambient aerosol condensation nuclei counter (CNC) quantitative fit testing (Portacount™) protocol quantitatively fit tests respirators with the use of a probe. The probed respirator is only used for quantitative fit tests. A probed respirator has a special sampling device, installed on the respirator, that allows the probe to sample the air from inside the mask. A probed respirator is required for each make, style, model, and size that the employer uses and can be obtained from the respirator manufacturer or distributor. The CNC instrument manufacturer, TSI Inc., also provides probe attachments (TSI sampling adapters) that permit fit testing in an employee's own respirator. A minimum fit factor pass level of at least 100 is necessary for a half-mask respirator and a minimum fit factor pass level of at least 500 is required for a full facepiece negative pressure respirator. The entire screening and testing procedure shall be explained to the test subject prior to the conduct of the screening test.

(a) Portacount Fit Test Requirements.

(1) Check the respirator to make sure the sampling probe and line are properly attached to the facepiece and that the respirator is fitted with a particulate filter capable of preventing significant penetration by the ambient particles used by the fit test (e.g. NIOSH 42 CFR 84 series 100, 99 or 95 particulate filter) per manufacturer's instruction.

(2) Instruct the person to be tested to don the respirator for five minutes before the fit test starts. This purges the ambient particles trapped inside the respirator and permits the wearer to make certain the respirator is comfortable. This individual shall already have been trained on how to wear the respirator properly.

(3) Check the following conditions for the adequacy of the respirator fit: Chin properly placed; Adequate strap tension, not overly tightened; Fit across nose bridge; Respirator of proper size to span distance from nose to chin; Tendency of the respirator to slip; Self-observation in a mirror to evaluate fit and respirator position.

(4) Have the person wearing the respirator do a user seal check. If leakage is detected, determine the cause. If leakage is from a poorly fitting facepiece, try another size of the same model respirator, or another model of respirator.

(5) Follow the manufacturer's instruction for operating the Portacount and proceed with the test.

(6) the test subject shall be instructed to perform the exercises in section I. A. 14. of this appendix.

(7) After the test exercises, the test subject shall be questioned by the test conductor regarding the comfort of the respirator upon completion of the protocol. If it has become unacceptable, another model of respirator shall be tried.

(b) Portacount Test Instrument.

(1) The Portacount will automatically stop and calculate the overall fit factor for the entire set of exercises. The overall fit factor is what counts. The Pass or Fail message will indicate whether or not the test was successful. If the test was a Pass, the fit test is over.

(2) Since the pass or fail criterion of the Portacount is user programmable, the test operator shall ensure that the pass or fail criterion meet the requirements for minimum respirator performance in this Appendix.

(3) A record of the test needs to be kept on file, assuming the fit test was successful. The record must contain the test subject's name; overall fit factor; make, model, style, and size of respirator used; and date tested.

## Part II. New Fit Test Protocols

A. Any person may submit to OSHA an application for approval of a new fit test protocol. If the application meets the following criteria, OSHA will initiate a rulemaking proceeding under section 6(b)(7) of the OSH Act to determine whether to list the new protocol as an approved protocol in this Appendix A.

B. The application must include a detailed description of the proposed new fit test protocol. This application must be supported by either:

1. A test report prepared by an independent government research laboratory (e.g., Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Los Alamos National Laboratory, the National Institute for Standards and Technology) stating that the laboratory has tested the protocol and had found it to be accurate and reliable; or
2. An article that has been published in a peer-reviewed industrial hygiene journal describing the protocol and explaining how test data support the protocol's accuracy and reliability.

C. If OSHA determines that additional information is required before the Agency commences a rulemaking proceeding under this section, OSHA will so notify the applicant and afford the applicant the opportunity to submit the supplemental information. Initiation of a rulemaking proceeding will be deferred until OSHA has received and evaluated the supplemental information.

### NOTE

Authority cited: Section 142.3, Labor Code. Reference: Section 142.3, Labor Code.

### HISTORY

1. New appendix A to section 5144 filed 8-25-98; operative 11-23-98 (Register 98, No. 35).
2. Editorial correction amending subsection B.5.(a)(1) (Register 99, No. 8).

**APPENDIX B**  
**USER SEAL CHECK PROCEDURES**

## OSHA User Seal Check Procedures

[http://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/5144b\\_1.html](http://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/5144b_1.html)

The individual who uses a tight-fitting respirator is to perform a user seal check to ensure that an adequate seal is achieved each time the respirator is put on. Either the positive and negative pressure checks listed in this appendix, or the respirator manufacturer's recommended user seal check method shall be used. User seal checks are not substitutes for qualitative or quantitative fit tests.

### I. Facepiece Positive and/or Negative Pressure Checks.

A. Positive pressure check. Close off the exhalation valve and exhale gently into the facepiece. The face fit is considered satisfactory if a slight positive pressure can be built up inside the facepiece without any evidence of outward leakage of air at the seal. For most respirators this method of leak testing requires the wearer to first remove the exhalation valve cover before closing off the exhalation valve and then carefully replacing it after the test.

B. Negative pressure check. Close off the inlet opening of the canister or cartridge(s) by covering with the palm of the hand(s) or by replacing the filter seal(s), inhale gently so that the facepiece collapses slightly, and hold the breath for ten seconds. The design of the inlet opening of some cartridges cannot be effectively covered with the palm of the hand. The test can be performed by covering the inlet opening of the cartridge with a thin latex or nitrile glove. If the facepiece remains in its slightly collapsed condition and no inward leakage of air is detected, the tightness of the respirator is considered satisfactory.

II. Manufacturer's Recommended User Seal Check Procedures. The respirator manufacturer's recommended procedures for performing a user seal check may be used instead of the positive and/or negative pressure check procedures provided that the employer demonstrates that the manufacturer's procedures are equally effective.

### NOTE

Authority cited: Section 142.3, Labor Code. Reference: Section 142.3, Labor Code.

### HISTORY

1. New appendix B-2 to section 5144 filed 8-25-98; operative 11-23-98 (Register 98, No. 35).

**APPENDIX C**  
**RESPIRATOR CLEANING PROCEDURES**

## OSHA Respirator Cleaning Procedures

[http://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/5144b\\_2.html](http://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/5144b_2.html)

These procedures are provided for employer use when cleaning respirators. They are general in nature, and the employer as an alternative may use the cleaning recommendations provided by the manufacturer of the respirators used by their employees, provided such procedures are as effective as those listed here in Appendix B-2. Equivalent effectiveness simply means that the procedures used must accomplish the objectives set forth in Appendix B-2, i.e., must ensure that the respirator is properly cleaned and disinfected in a manner that prevents damage to the respirator and does not cause harm to the user.

### I. Procedures for Cleaning Respirators.

A. Remove filters, cartridges, or canisters. Disassemble facepieces by removing speaking diaphragms, demand and pressure-demand valve assemblies, hoses, or any components recommended by the manufacturer. Discard or repair any defective parts.

B. Wash components in warm (43 deg. C [110 deg. F] maximum) water with a mild detergent or with a cleaner recommended by the manufacturer. A stiff bristle (not wire) brush may be used to facilitate the removal of dirt.

C. Rinse components thoroughly in clean, warm (43 deg. C [110 deg. F] maximum), preferably running water. Drain.

D. When the cleaner used does not contain a disinfecting agent, respirator components should be immersed for two minutes in one of the following:

1. Hypochlorite solution (50 ppm of chlorine) made by adding approximately one milliliter of laundry bleach to one liter of water at 43 deg. C (110 deg. F); or,
2. Aqueous solution of iodine (50 ppm iodine) made by adding approximately 0.8 milliliters of tincture of iodine (6-8 grams ammonium and/or potassium iodide/100 cc of 45% alcohol) to one liter of water at 43 deg. C (110 deg. F); or,
3. Other commercially available cleansers of equivalent disinfectant quality when used as directed, if their use is recommended or approved by the respirator manufacturer.

E. Rinse components thoroughly in clean, warm (43 deg. C [110 deg. F] maximum), preferably running water. Drain. The importance of thorough rinsing cannot be overemphasized. Detergents or disinfectants that dry on facepieces may result in dermatitis. In addition, some disinfectants may cause deterioration of rubber or corrosion of metal parts if not completely removed.

F. Components should be hand-dried with a clean lint-free cloth or air-dried.

G. Reassemble facepiece, replacing filters, cartridges, and canisters where necessary.

H. Test the respirator to ensure that all components work properly.

## NOTE

Authority cited: Section 142.3, Labor Code. Reference: Section 142.3, Labor Code.

## HISTORY

1. New appendix B-2 to section 5144 filed 8-25-98; operative 11-23-98 (Register 98, No. 35).



**APPENDIX D**  
**MEDICAL EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE**

## **OSHA Respirator Medical Evaluation Questionnaire**

<http://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/5144c.html>

*To the employer: Answers to questions in Section 1, and to question 9 in Section 2 of Part A, do not require a medical examination.*

To the employee:

Can you read (circle): Yes/No

Your employer must allow you to answer the questionnaire during normal working hours, or at a time and place that is convenient to you. To maintain your confidentiality, your employer or supervisor must not look at or review your answers, and your employer must tell you how to deliver or send this questionnaire to the health care professional who will review it.

Part A. Section 1. (Mandatory) The following information must be provided by every employee who has been selected to use any type of respirator (please print).

1. Today's date:
2. Your name:
3. Your age (to nearest year):
4. Sex (circle one): Male/Female
5. Your height:                                 ft.                 in.
6. Your weight:                                 lbs.
7. Your job title:
8. A phone number where you can be reached by the health care professional who reviews this questionnaire (include the Area Code):
9. The best time to phone you at this number:
10. Has your employer told you how to contact the health care professional who will review this questionnaire (circle one): Yes/No
11. Check the type of respirator you will use (you can check more than one category):
  - a. \_\_\_ N, R, or P disposable respirator (filter-mask, non-cartridge type only).
  - b. \_\_\_ Other type (for example, half- or full-facepiece type, powered-air purifying, supplied-air, self-contained breathing apparatus).
12. Have you worn a respirator (circle one): Yes/No  
If "yes," what type(s):

Part A. Section 2. (Mandatory) Questions 1 through 9 below must be answered by every employee who has been selected to use any type of respirator (please circle “yes” or “no”). 1. Do you currently smoke tobacco, or have you smoked tobacco in the last month: Yes/No

2. Have you ever had any of the following conditions?

- a. Seizures (fits): Yes/No
- b. Diabetes (sugar disease): Yes/No
- c. Allergic reactions that interfere with your breathing: Yes/No
- d. Claustrophobia (fear of closed-in places): Yes/No
- e. Trouble smelling odors: Yes/No

3. Have you ever had any of the following pulmonary or lung problems?

- a. Asbestosis: Yes/No
- b. Asthma: Yes/No
- c. Chronic bronchitis: Yes/No
- d. Emphysema: Yes/No
- e. Pneumonia: Yes/No
- f. Tuberculosis: Yes/No
- g. Silicosis: Yes/No
- h. Pneumothorax (collapsed lung): Yes/No
- i. Lung cancer: Yes/No
- j. Broken ribs: Yes/No
- k. Any chest injuries or surgeries: Yes/No
- l. Any other lung problem that you've been told about: Yes/No

4. Do you currently have any of the following symptoms of pulmonary or lung illness?

- a. Shortness of breath: Yes/No
- b. Shortness of breath when walking fast on level ground or walking up a slight hill or incline: Yes/No
- c. Shortness of breath when walking with other people at an ordinary pace on level ground: Yes/No
- d. Have to stop for breath when walking at your own pace on level ground: Yes/No

- e. Shortness of breath when washing or dressing yourself: Yes/No
  - f. Shortness of breath that interferes with your job: Yes/No
  - g. Coughing that produces phlegm (thick sputum): Yes/No
  - h. Coughing that wakes you early in the morning: Yes/No
  - i. Coughing that occurs mostly when you are lying down: Yes/No
  - j. Coughing up blood in the last month: Yes/No
  - k. Wheezing: Yes/No
  - l. Wheezing that interferes with your job: Yes/No
  - m. Chest pain when you breathe deeply: Yes/No
  - n. Any other symptoms that you think may be related to lung problems: Yes/No
5. Have you ever had any of the following cardiovascular or heart problems?
- a. Heart attack: Yes/No
  - b. Stroke: Yes/No
  - c. Angina: Yes/No
  - d. Heart failure: Yes/No
  - e. Swelling in your legs or feet (not caused by walking): Yes/No
  - f. Heart arrhythmia (heart beating irregularly): Yes/No
  - g. High blood pressure: Yes/No
  - h. Any other heart problem that you've been told about: Yes/No
6. Have you ever had any of the following cardiovascular or heart symptoms?
- a. Frequent pain or tightness in your chest: Yes/No
  - b. Pain or tightness in your chest during physical activity: Yes/No
  - c. Pain or tightness in your chest that interferes with your job: Yes/No
  - d. In the past two years, have you noticed your heart skipping or missing a beat: Yes/No
  - e. Heartburn or indigestion that is not related to eating: Yes/No
  - f. Any other symptoms that you think may be related to heart or circulation problems:  
Yes/No

7. Do you currently take medication for any of the following problems?

- a. Breathing or lung problems: Yes/No
- b. Heart trouble: Yes/No
- c. Blood pressure: Yes/No
- d. Seizures (fits): Yes/No

8. If you've ever used a respirator, have you ever had any of the following problems?

(If you've never used a respirator, check the following space and go to question 9:)

- a. Eye irritation: Yes/No
- b. Skin allergies or rashes: Yes/No
- c. Anxiety: Yes/No
- d. General weakness or fatigue: Yes/No
- e. Any other problem that interferes with your use of a respirator: Yes/No

9. Would you like to talk to the health care professional who will review this questionnaire about your answers to this questionnaire: Yes/No

Questions 10 to 15 below must be answered by every employee who has been selected to use either a full-facepiece respirator or a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). For employees who have been selected to use other types of respirators, answering these questions is voluntary.

10. Have you ever lost vision in either eye (temporarily or permanently): Yes/No

11. Do you currently have any of the following vision problems?

- a. Wear contact lenses: Yes/No
- b. Wear glasses: Yes/No
- c. Color blind: Yes/No
- d. Any other eye or vision problem: Yes/No

12. Have you ever had an injury to your ears, including a broken ear drum: Yes/No

13. Do you currently have any of the following hearing problems?

- a. Difficulty hearing: Yes/No
- b. Wear a hearing aid: Yes/No
- c. Any other hearing or ear problem: Yes/No

14. Have you ever had a back injury: Yes/No

15. Do you currently have any of the following musculoskeletal problems?

- a. Weakness in any of your arms, hands, legs, or feet: Yes/No
- b. Back pain: Yes/No
- c. Difficulty fully moving your arms and legs: Yes/No
- d. Pain and stiffness when you lean forward or backward at the waist: Yes/No
- e. Difficulty fully moving your head up or down: Yes/No
- f. Difficulty fully moving your head side to side: Yes/No
- g. Difficulty bending at your knees: Yes/No
- h. Difficulty squatting to the ground: Yes/No
- i. Climbing a flight of stairs or a ladder carrying more than 25 lbs: Yes/No
- j. Any other muscle or skeletal problem that interferes with using a respirator: Yes/No

Part B. Any of the following questions, and other questions not listed, may be added to the questionnaire at the discretion of the health care professional who will review the questionnaire.

1. In your present job, are you working at high altitudes (over 5,000 feet) or in a place that has lower than normal amounts of oxygen: Yes/No

If “yes,” do you have feelings of dizziness, shortness of breath, pounding in your chest, or other symptoms when you're working under these conditions: Yes/No

2. At work or at home, have you ever been exposed to hazardous solvents, hazardous airborne chemicals (e.g., gases, fumes, or dust), or have you come into skin contact with hazardous chemicals: Yes/No

If “yes,” name the chemicals if you know them:

3. Have you ever worked with any of the materials, or under any of the conditions, listed below:

- a. Asbestos: Yes/No
- b. Silica (e.g., in sandblasting): Yes/No
- c. Tungsten/cobalt (e.g., grinding or welding this material): Yes/No
- d. Beryllium: Yes/No
- e. Aluminum: Yes/No
- f. Coal (for example, mining): Yes/No

- g. Iron: Yes/No
- h. Tin: Yes/No
- i. Dusty environments: Yes/No
- j. Any other hazardous exposures: Yes/No

If “yes,” describe these exposures:

- 4. List any second jobs or side businesses you have:
- 5. List your previous occupations:
- 6. List your current and previous hobbies:
- 7. Have you been in the military services? Yes/No

If “yes,” were you exposed to biological or chemical agents (either in training or combat):  
Yes/No

- 8. Have you ever worked on a HAZMAT team? Yes/No
- 9. Other than medications for breathing and lung problems, heart trouble, blood pressure, and seizures mentioned earlier in this questionnaire, are you taking any other medications for any reason (including over-the-counter medications): Yes/No

If “yes,” name the medications if you know them:

- 10. Will you be using any of the following items with your respirator(s)?
  - a. HEPA Filters: Yes/No
  - b. Canisters (for example, gas masks): Yes/No
  - c. Cartridges: Yes/No
- 11. How often are you expected to use the respirator(s) (circle “yes” or “no” for all answers that apply to you)?:
  - a. Escape only (no rescue): Yes/No
  - b. Emergency rescue only: Yes/No
  - c. Less than 5 hours per week: Yes/No
  - d. Less than 2 hours per day: Yes/No
  - e. 2 to 4 hours per day: Yes/No
  - f. Over 4 hours per day: Yes/No

12. During the period you are using the respirator(s), is your work effort: a. Light (less than 200 kcal per hour): Yes/No

If "yes," how long does this period last during the average shift: \_\_\_\_ hrs. \_\_\_\_ mins.

Examples of a light work effort are sitting while writing, typing, drafting, or performing light assembly work; or standing while operating a drill press (1-3 lbs.) or controlling machines.

b. Moderate (200 to 350 kcal per hour): Yes/No

If "yes," how long does this period last during the average shift: \_\_\_\_ hrs. \_\_\_\_ mins.

Examples of moderate work effort are sitting while nailing or filing; driving a truck or bus in urban traffic; standing while drilling, nailing, performing assembly work, or transferring a moderate load (about 35 lbs.) at trunk level; walking on a level surface about 2 mph or down a 5-degree grade about 3 mph; or pushing a wheelbarrow with a heavy load (about 100 lbs.) on a level surface.

c. Heavy (above 350 kcal per hour): Yes/No

If "yes," how long does this period last during the average shift: \_\_\_\_ hrs. \_\_\_\_ mins.

Examples of heavy work are lifting a heavy load (about 50 lbs.) from the floor to your waist or shoulder; working on a loading dock; shoveling; standing while bricklaying or chipping castings; walking up an 8-degree grade about 2 mph; climbing stairs with a heavy load (about 50 lbs.).

13. Will you be wearing protective clothing and/or equipment (other than the respirator) when you're using the respirator: Yes/No

If "yes," describe this protective clothing and/or equipment:

14. Will you be working under hot conditions (temperature exceeding 77 deg. F): Yes/No

15. Will you be working under humid conditions: Yes/No

16. Describe the work you'll be doing while you're using your respirator(s):

17. Describe any special or hazardous conditions you might encounter when you're using your respirator(s) (for example, confined spaces, life-threatening gases):

18. Provide the following information, if you know it, for each toxic substance that you'll be exposed to when you're using your respirator(s):

Name of first toxic substance:

Estimated maximum exposure level per shift:

Duration of exposure per shift:

Name of second toxic substance:



Estimated maximum exposure level per shift:

Duration of exposure per shift:

Name of third toxic substance:

Estimated maximum exposure level per shift:

Duration of exposure per shift:

The name of any other toxic substances that you'll be exposed to while using your respirator:

19. Describe any special responsibilities you'll have while using your respirator(s) that may affect the safety and well-being of others (for example, rescue, security):

NOTE

Authority cited: Section 142.3, Labor Code. Reference: Section 142.3, Labor Code.

HISTORY

1. New appendix C to section 5144 filed 8-25-98; operative 11-23-98 (Register 98, No. 35).

**APPENDIX E**  
**RESPIRATOR SELECTION**

## Selection of Respirators.

<http://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/5144.html>

### District Approved Respirators & Filters for Qualified Employees

Brand Name	Mask Style	Filter Cartridge Type	Misc. Info.
3m	Half mask	Particulate Filter	For workplace/occupational only

This subsection requires the employer to evaluate respiratory hazard(s) in the workplace, identify relevant workplace and user factors, and base respirator selection on these factors. The subsection also specifies appropriately protective respirators for use in IDLH atmospheres, and limits the selection and use of air-purifying respirators.

#### (1) General requirements.

(A) The employer shall select and provide an appropriate respirator based on the respiratory hazard(s) to which the worker is exposed and workplace and user factors that affect respirator performance and reliability.

(B) The employer shall select a NIOSH-certified respirator. The respirator shall be used in compliance with the conditions of its certification.

(C) The employer shall identify and evaluate the respiratory hazard(s) in the workplace; this evaluation shall include a reasonable estimate of employee exposures to respiratory hazard(s) and an identification of the contaminant's chemical state and physical form. Where the employer cannot identify or reasonably estimate the employee exposure, the employer shall consider the atmosphere to be IDLH.

(D) The employer shall select respirators from a sufficient number of respirator models and sizes so that the respirator is acceptable to, and correctly fits, the user.

#### (2) Respirators for IDLH atmospheres.

(A) The employer shall provide the following respirators for employee use in IDLH atmospheres:

1. A full facepiece pressure demand SCBA certified by NIOSH for a minimum service life of thirty minutes, or
2. A combination full facepiece pressure demand supplied-air respirator (SAR) with auxiliary self-contained air supply.

(B) Respirators provided only for escape from IDLH atmospheres shall be NIOSH-certified for escape from the atmosphere in which they will be used.

(C) All oxygen-deficient atmospheres shall be considered IDLH.

Exception: If the employer demonstrates that, under all foreseeable conditions, the oxygen concentration can be maintained within the ranges specified in Table II (i.e., for the altitudes set out in the table), then any atmosphere-supplying respirator may be used.

(3) Respirators for atmospheres that are not IDLH.

(A) The employer shall provide a respirator that is adequate to protect the health of the employee and ensure compliance with all other OSHA statutory and regulatory requirements, under routine and reasonably foreseeable emergency situations.

1. Assigned Protection Factors (APFs) Employers must use the assigned protection factors listed in Table 1 to select a respirator that meets or exceeds the required level of employee protection. When using a combination respirator (e.g., airline respirators with an air-purifying filter), employers must ensure that the assigned protection factor is appropriate to the mode of operation in which the respirator is being used.

Table 1. -Assigned Protection Factors 5

Type of respirator <sup>1, 2</sup>	Quarter mask	Half mask	Full facepiece	Helmet/ hood	Loose-fitting facepiece
1. Air-purifying respirator	5	<sup>3</sup> 10	50	.....	.....
2. Powered Air-Purifying Respirator (PAPR)	.....	50	1,000	<sup>4</sup> 25/1,000	.....
3. Supplied-Air Respirator (SAR) or Airline Respirator					
• Demand mode	.....	10	50	.....	.....
• Continuous flow mode	.....	50	10,000	<sup>4</sup> 25/1,000	25
• Pressure-demand or other positive-pressure mode	.....	50	1,000	.....	.....
4. Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)					
• Demand mode	.....	10	50	50	.....
• Pressure-demand or other positive-pressure mode (e.g., open/closed circuit)	.....	.....	10,000	10,000	.....

Notes:

1. Employers may select respirators assigned for use in higher workplace concentrations of a hazardous substance for use at lower concentrations of that substance, or when required respirator use is independent of concentration.

2. The assigned protection factors in Table 1 are only effective when the employer implements a continuing, effective respirator program as required by this section, including training, fit testing, maintenance, and use requirements.

3. This APF category includes filtering facepieces, and half masks with elastomeric facepieces.

4. The employer must have evidence provided by the respirator manufacturer that testing of these respirators demonstrates performance at a level of protection of 1,000 or greater to receive an APF of 1,000. This level of performance can best be demonstrated by performing a Workplace Protection Factor (WPF) or simulated WPF study or equivalent testing. Absent such testing, all other PAPRs and SARs with helmets/hoods are to be treated as loose-fitting facepiece respirators, and receive an APF of 25.

5. These APFs do not apply to respirators used solely for escape. For escape respirators used in association with substances covered by substance-specific standards in Title 8, Division 1, Chapter 4, Subchapters 4, 7, and 18, employers must refer to the appropriate substance-specific standards. Escape respirators for other IDLH atmospheres are specified by subsection (d)(2)(B).

## 2. Maximum Use Concentration (MUC)

a. The employer must select a respirator for employee use that maintains the employee's exposure to the hazardous substance, when measured outside the respirator, at or below the MUC.

b. Employers must not apply MUCs to conditions that are immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH); instead, they must use respirators listed for IDLH conditions in subsection (d)(2) of this section.

c. When the calculated MUC exceeds the IDLH level for a hazardous substance, or the performance limits of the cartridge or canister, then employers must set the maximum MUC at that lower limit.

(B) The respirator selected shall be appropriate for the chemical state and physical form of the contaminant.

(C) For protection against gases and vapors, the employer shall provide:

1. An atmosphere-supplying respirator, or

2. An air-purifying respirator, provided that:

a. The respirator is equipped with an end-of-service-life indicator (ESLI) certified by NIOSH for the contaminant; or

b. If there is no ESLI appropriate for conditions in the employer's workplace, the employer implements a change schedule for canisters and cartridges that is based on objective information or data that will ensure that canisters and cartridges are changed before the end of their service life. The employer shall describe in the respirator program the information and data relied upon and the basis for the canister and cartridge change schedule and the basis for reliance on the data.

(D) For protection against particulates, the employer shall provide:

1. An atmosphere-supplying respirator; or

2. An air-purifying respirator equipped with a filter certified by NIOSH under 30 CFR part 11 as a high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter, or an air-purifying respirator equipped with a filter certified for particulates by NIOSH under 42 CFR part 84; or

3. For contaminants consisting primarily of particles with mass median aerodynamic diameters (MMAD) of at least 2 micrometers, an air-purifying respirator equipped with any filter certified for particulates by NIOSH.

Table I -Assigned Protection Factors [Reserved]

Table II

Altitude (ft.)	Oxygen deficient Atmospheres (% O2) for which the employer may rely on atmosphere-supplying respirators
Less than 3,001	16.0-19.5
3,001-4,000	16.4-19.5
4,001-5,000	17.1-19.5
5,001-6,000	17.8-19.5
6,001-7,000	18.5-19.5
7,001-8,0000	19.3-19.5

[FN1] Above 8,000 feet the exception does not apply. Oxygen-enriched breathing air must be supplied above 14,000 feet.

**APPENDIX F**  
**INFORMATION FOR VOLUNTARY RESPIRATOR USE**

## **OSHA Information for Employees Using Respirators When Not Required Under the Standard**

Handout for employees who choose to wear a respirator (if the employer allows this practice), even though one is not deemed necessary.

<http://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/5144d.html>

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 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.

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.
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 your respirator is not designated 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.

### NOTE

Authority cited: Section 142.3, Labor Code. Reference: Section 142.3, Labor Code.

### HISTORY

1. New appendix D to section 5144 filed 8-25-98; operative 11-23-98 (Register 98, No. 35).