

Information for Employees Using Respirators When Not Required Under the Standard

All employees must read and sign this document before obtaining a respirator for comfort reasons (voluntary use). This includes disposable respirators with 2 straps commonly referred to as dust masks. Some of the more common models of N95 Particulate Respirators provided by Staff Electric are 3M 8210, 3M 8710, Gearson 1730, Moldex 4200. Contact your Foreman or Safety Director if you have questions.

This document does not apply for situations requiring workers to wear respirators when the air contaminants exceed recommended threshold levels. Contact the Safety Director immediately if you think the air contaminants may exceed recommended levels.

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 own 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:

- Read and heed all instructions provided by the manufacturer on use, maintenance, cleaning and care, and warnings regarding the respirators limitations.
- Choose the respirators certified for use to protect against the contaminant of concern. NIOSH, the National Institute 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.
- Do not wear your respirator into atmospheres containing contaminants for which your respirator is not designed to protect against. For example, a respirator designed to filter dust particles will not protect you against gases, vapors, or very small solid particles of fumes or smoke.
- Keep track of your respirator so that you do not mistakenly use someone else's respirator.

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the importance of following the above procedures.

Job: _____

Task: _____

Employee Signature

Date

RESPIRATORY PROTECTION

N95 Particulate Respirators (dust masks) for voluntary use by employees for comfort reasons.

Common Models of N95 Particulate Respirators:

- 3M 8210 (formerly 3M 8710)
- Gearson 1730
- Moldex 4200



Used For: Solid or non-oil based particles

Do Not Use For:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| • Paint spray | Asbestos |
| • Oil aerosols | Sandblasting |
| • Gases and vapors | Lead |

Limitations:

- These respirators do not supply oxygen. They are not for use in atmospheres containing less than 19.5 % oxygen or poorly ventilated spaces such as confined spaces.
- Not for use in atmospheres immediately dangerous to life and health.
- Not for use where the hazard's exposure level exceeds your respirator's protection level for the substance.

Selection: Select the right type of respirator for the hazard. Contact your Foreman or Safety Director for assistance.

strap over your hand and position it around the neck and below the ears.

moving your fingertips down both sides of the nosepiece.

Wear it Properly:



Position the respirator under your chin with the nosepiece up. Pull the strap over your head resting it high at the top back of your head. Pull the bottom



Place your fingertips from both hands at the top of the metal nosepiece. Using 2 hands, mold the nose area to the shape of your nose by pushing inwards while



Perform a user seal check prior to each wearing. To check fit, cup both hands over the respirator and exhale vigorously. If air flow around your nose, tighten the nosepiece. If air leaks around the edges, reposition the straps for a better fit.

- Always wear both sets of head straps.
- Make sure the respirator stays in place, even when you turn your head side to side.
- Facial hair and certain facial characteristics may prohibit effective use of the product.
- Leave the work area if: (1) breathing becomes difficult, or (2) dizziness or other signs of distress occur.

Dispose of Worn Respirators: When a disposable respirator loses its ability to protect you, throw it away. It's time for a new respirator when any of the following occur:

- The filter gets clogged or damaged.
- The straps lose their elasticity.
- The facepiece tears.