

**Respiratory Protection Standard
29-CFR-1910.134, Appendix D**

Employees may desire to wear respirator protection for reasons of personal comfort or preference in the absence of respiratory hazards in the workplace which would require the use of a respirator. This practice shall be allowed only when certain basic requirements are met.

Voluntary Use of Filtering Facepiece Respirators (dust masks).

Filtering Facepiece Respirators are negative pressure particulate respirators with the filter as an integral part of the facepiece or with the entire facepiece composed of the filtering medium. They are often referred to as dust masks.

The following conditions shall be met when respirators are used voluntarily.

- 1) The workplace shall be free of atmospheric hazards which would require the use of a respirator.
- 2) An evaluation conducted of the workplace and circumstances under which the respirator has determined that use of the respirator will not in itself create a hazard.
- 3) Voluntary use has been approved by the RPPA.
- 4) Voluntary users of respirators shall be provided a copy of the Information for Employees contained in this Appendix

Voluntary Use of Respirators Other Than Filtering Facepieces

In addition to the conditions above, medical evaluation as described in Appendix C shall be provided when respirators other than filtering facepieces are used voluntarily.

Two forms to document this information follow:

- 1- Individual Certificate
- 2- Group Roster

Information for Employees Using Respirators When Not Required

Voluntary Respirator Use¹

This information shall be provided to every employee that uses a respirator on a voluntary basis when respirator use is not required.

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 designed to protect against. For example, a respirator designed to filter dust particles will not protect you against gases, vapors, or very small solid particles of fumes or smoke.
4. Keep track of your respirator so that you do not mistakenly use someone else's respirator.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Distribution: (___) Work Group Supervisor, (___) Training Officer, (___) Safety Officer

¹ Appendix D to Sec. 1910.134 (Mandatory) Information for Employees Using Respirators When Not Required Under the Standard

“SAFETY TOPIC”
TRAINING RECORD

Forest: _____ **District:** _____ **Group:** _____

Voluntary Use of Dust Masks - Information for Employees Using Respirators When Not Required

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 designed to protect against. **For example, a respirator designed to filter dust particles will not protect you against gases, vapors, or very small solid particles of fumes or smoke.**

4. Keep track of your respirator so that you do not mistakenly use someone else's respirator.

| Print Name | Signature | Date |
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Distribution: (___) Work Group Supervisor, (___) Training Officer, (___) Safety Officer