Information for Voluntary Users of Respirators (1910.134 Appendix D)

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This appendix is provided for those individuals who are wearing respiratory protection but are not required to do so under the MIOSHA Respiratory Protection Standard. Respirators are an effective method of protection against designated hazards when properly selected and worn. Respirators can be used, even when exposures are below exposure limits, to provide an additional level of comfort and protection to workers. However, if a respirator is used improperly or not kept clean, the respirator itself can become a hazard to the worker.

The following precautions need to be taken to be sure that the respirator itself does not present a hazard:

- Read and heed all instructions provided by the manufacturer on use, maintenance, cleaning, and care, and warnings regarding the respirator's limitations. See Respirator Training Information Checklist for additional information.
- Make sure that the respirator in use is adequately protecting against the contaminant of concern. All respirators and cartridges/filters issued through EHS are certified by NIOSH and are designed to protect against specific contaminants. Obtain all respiratory protection through EHS to ensure that the proper equipment is used. Exception: Filtering facepiece respirators (dust mask, KN95, N95 etc.) may be obtained by other U-M departments for voluntary use provided that this appendix is given to the employee along with the filtering facepiece respirator.
- 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 against gases, vapors, or very small solid particles of fumes or smoke. If the contaminant of concern differs from that which you were originally evaluated for, call EHS to re-evaluate your protection.
- Keep track of your respirator so that you do not mistakenly use someone else's respirator.

EHS ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

- The tight fit respirator is fit tested every FIVE years.
- PAPR (powered air purifying respirator) is NOT fit tested due to the loose-fitting hood/helmet seal. Online training modules through LITMOS or MyLINC are done annually
- OHS medical clearance is given for one year depending on your health status.
- TIGHT FITTING respirator users remember that the respirator needs to be returned to EHS when no longer needed (i.e., employee leaves the University or work duties change and respirator not needed)