

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Respiratory Protection Program

I. Introduction

The purpose of this program is to ensure that all employees required to wear respiratory protection based on their job duties are protected from airborne hazards through the proper use of respirators. Where feasible, protection shall be accomplished through engineering controls. For example: enclosure, isolation, general or local ventilation and substitution of less toxic materials. The use of appropriate respiratory protection will be required when effective engineering controls and/or administrative controls are not feasible as well as while they are being instituted or evaluated.

II. Scope

This program shall apply to all employees required to participate in the respiratory protection program based on potential exposure to airborne hazards during performance of assigned job duties. The program shall not apply to respiratory equipment used for comfort or to prevent exposure to nuisance levels of air contaminants. The respiratory protection program is solely overseen and managed by Environmental Health and Safety.

III. Responsibilities

Environmental Health and Safety

- a. Establish and maintain the Respiratory Protection Program and associated records.
- b. Ensure that respirators are selected from those approved by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and that they have been tested, certified and are used in accordance with work area conditions to ensure

ent and employees are using respirators appropriately.

f program effectiveness.

spiratory protection program needs.

Department/Supervisors

- a. Ensure employees are not assigned tasks requiring the use of respirators unless it has been determined that the employee has received proper medical evaluation, fit testing and training.
- b. Provide, at no cost to employee, a medical evaluation to determine the employee's ability to use a respirator, before the employee is fit tested or required to use the respirator in the workplace.
- c. Provide, at no cost to employee, a respirator that is adequate to protect the health of the employee. Con

Employee

- a. Use provided respiratory protection in accordance with the TTU respiratory protection program.
- b. Complete a medical evaluation.
- c. Attend required training and fit testing.
- d. Immediately report any malfunction of the respirator to their supervisor.
- e. Notify their supervisor and EHS when a change in their health status occurs that could affect their ability to use a respirator.

IV. Medical Evaluation

Each department, as the employer, must provide a medical evaluation to determine an employee's medical eligibility for respirator use. Medical evaluations shall be provided at no expense to the employee. The medical evaluation must occur before an employee is fit tested or required to use the respirator in the workplace. All employees will complete a Medical Evaluation Questionnaire before using a respirator. The questionnaire will be submitted to a physician or health care provider for evaluation. Cleared/not cleared information will be entered with records kept by Environmental Health and Safety. Follow up medical evaluations shall be provided at no expense to the employee when a change in the employee's health is noted.

V. Respirator Selection

Individual departments are responsible for purchasing and providing respirators to their employees. Prior to purchasing respirators, each department must consult with and receive approval from EHS.

- a. Only NIOSH approved respirators will be used in the respiratory protection program.
- b. The choice of respirators will be dependent upon the following information:
 - i.

VII. Fit Testing of Respirators

a.

Attachment A: Voluntary Use of N-95 Respirators Safety Information

Instructions: Review the following information including Appendix D. Initial each box, complete the information and sign the form (both employee/student and supervisor). Maintain a readily retrievable copy of the signed form as well as forward a signed copy to EHS.

- 1.

be used in oxygen-deficient atmospheres or atmospheres that contain hazards that are Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH).

4. CARE, MAINTENANCE, USEFUL LIFE AND DISPOSAL OF PPE

Filtering facepiece respirators are considered disposable PPE and can be disposed of in regular trash after use, unless otherwise directed. They cannot be cleaned, especially when they become wet or soiled. They must not be shared.

Respirators should be stored in a clean, dry location, protected from sunlight, chemicals, water, and physical damage.

**Appendix D to OSHA Standard Section 1910.134 (Mandatory)
Information for Employees/Students Using Respirators When Not Required Under the Standard**

Respirators are an effective method of protection against designated hazards when properly selected

Certification: I have reviewed this document and take full responsibility to follow the directions. If there is any change in my work conditions or health I will immediately notify my supervisor and EHS. A completed copy of this document must be maintained by the supervisor and EHS.

Employee's Name: _____
Dept.: _____ T-number: _____
Signature: _____
Date: _____ Phone: _____

Supervisor's Name: _____
Dept.: _____ T-number: _____
Signature: _____
Date: _____ Phone: _____