

## Appendix C: Voluntary Use of Elastomeric Respirator Form

Employee shall review and initial each of the following points:

### 1. ELASTOMERIC RESPIRATORS AND OSHA REQUIREMENTS

\_\_\_\_ Voluntary use is defined as use for employee comfort purposes only. No hazard exists that requires use of a respirator and the use of the respirator does not produce any additional hazard.

\_\_\_\_ Voluntary use of a respirator, other than a filtering facepiece, includes a medical evaluation by a licensed health care professional.

\_\_\_\_ If an employee is required to wear a respirator (to protect against a respiratory hazard or as required by the employer), full compliance with the University's Respiratory Protection Program is required, which includes a medical evaluation by a licensed health care professional, respirator training, and fit testing.

\_\_\_\_ OSHA requires that all employees voluntarily wearing respirators receive basic information on respirators as provided in Appendix D of the Respirator Standard, 1910.134 (found at the end of this document). Signature of this training form certifies receipt of Appendix D to 1910.134, as required by OSHA.

### 2. HOW TO USE AND WEAR A RESPIRATOR

\_\_\_\_ Inspect respirators prior to use, including new units out of the box. Check for rips and tears. Make sure straps are securely attached, nose piece is attached properly, and that no obvious defects exist.

\_\_\_\_ Proper use of the respirator is important. Without it, the respirator is ineffective against the workplace contaminants. Follow manufacturer instructions for use.

\_\_\_\_ Beards and other facial hairs negate the effectiveness of the respirator because they prevent an adequate seal between the respirator and the face. Skin afflictions, such as dermatitis, or scars, could affect the ability to produce a seal.

\_\_\_\_ User seal checks confirm that an adequate seal with the face is achieved when the mask is applied. User seal checks should be done every time the mask is put on and every time it is re-adjusted on the face.

### 3. LIMITATIONS OF PPE

\_\_\_\_ Elastomeric air-purifying respirators are only useful for protection indicated on the air-purifying cartridges. They are not to be used in oxygen-deficient atmospheres or atmospheres that contain hazards that are immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH). The respirator will not provide adequate protection if a good seal with the face is not achieved.

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

\_\_\_\_ Do not share respirators with other employees.

\_\_\_\_ New respirators should be stored in a clean, dry location, protected from sunlight, chemicals, water, and physical damage.

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Appendix D to OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard Section 29 CFR 1910.134

### Information for employees using respirators when not required under the standard

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 respirator's 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 provide protection. 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.

Employee Name: \_\_\_\_\_ 92#: \_\_\_\_\_

Employee Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Department: \_\_\_\_\_ Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Department Billing Account (For Medical Evaluation): \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Return both pages of the Voluntary Use of Elastomeric Respirator form to the Safety and Risk Management Office ([safety@wcu.edu](mailto:safety@wcu.edu) or via intercampus mail to Facilities Management – Safety Office).**