

Appendix B: Voluntary Use of Filtering Facepiece Respirator Form

Employee shall review and initial each of the following points:

1. FILTERING FACEPIECE RESPIRATORS AND OSHA REQUIREMENTS

____ Filtering Facepiece Respirators (also called dust masks) are considered true respirators according to OSHA.

____ N95 refers to the NIOSH certification of the filter media that comprises the facepiece. N means that it is not oil resistant and 95 refers to it being 95% effective at filtering particles at the 0.3-micron level.

____ N95 is the most common type of filtering facepiece respirator. Other NIOSH-certified filtering facepiece respirators include N100, R95, P95, and P100 (R, oil resistant; P, oil proof; N not oil resistant).

____ 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.

____ If an employee is required to wear a filtering facepiece 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 filtering facepiece 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 FILTERING FACEPIECE 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

____ Filtering facepiece respirators are only useful for protection against particulates. They are not to be used in oxygen-deficient atmospheres or atmospheres that contain hazards that are immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH). Odors will still be noted when using the respirator because it does not filter out gases or vapors. 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

____ Filtering facepiece respirators are considered disposable PPE. They cannot be cleaned, especially when they become wet or soiled. They cannot be shared 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: _____

Supervisor Signature: _____ Date: _____

****Return page 1 and page 2 of the Voluntary Use of Filtering Facepiece form to the Safety and Risk Management Office (safety@wcu.edu or via intercampus mail to Facilities Management – Safety Office).**