

Are You Safe at Work?
Respiratory Protection for Nurses: Model Program Information

Checklist for Respiratory Protection Programs

Check to ensure that your facility has:

- A written respiratory protection program that is specific to your workplace and covers the following:
 - Procedures for selecting respirators.
 - Medical evaluations of employees required to wear respirators.
 - Fit testing procedures.
 - Routine use and emergency respirator use procedures.
 - Procedures and schedules for cleaning, disinfecting, storing, inspecting, repairing, discarding, and maintaining respirators.
 - Procedures for ensuring adequate air quality for supplied air respirators.
 - Training in respiratory hazards.
 - Training in proper use and maintenance of respirators.
 - Program evaluation procedures.
 - Procedures for ensuring that workers who voluntarily wear respirators (excluding filtering facepieces) comply with the medical evaluation, cleaning, storing & maintenance requirements of the standard.
- A designated program administrator who is qualified to administer the program.
- Updated the written program as necessary to account for changes in the workplace affecting respirator use.
- Provided equipment, training, and medical evaluations at no cost to employees.
- Respiratory hazards have been identified and evaluated.
- Employee exposures that have not been, or cannot be, evaluated are considered immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH).
- Respirators are NIOSH certified, and used under the conditions of certification.
- Respirators are selected based on the workplace hazards evaluated and workplace and user factors affecting respirator performance and reliability.
- A sufficient number of respirator sizes and models are provided to correctly fit the users.

For Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) atmospheres:

- ___ Full facepiece pressure demand supplied-air respirator (SARs) with auxiliary self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) unit or full facepiece pressure demand SCBAs, with a minimum service life of 30 minutes, are provided.
- ___ Respirators used for escape only are National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) certified for the atmosphere in which they will be used.
- ___ Oxygen deficient atmospheres are considered IDLH.

For Non-IDLH atmospheres:

- ___ Respirators selected are appropriate for the chemical state and physical form of the contaminant.
- ___ Air-purifying respirators used for protection against gases and vapors are equipped with end-of-service-life indicator (ESLIs) or a change schedule has been implemented.
- ___ Air-purifying respirators used for protection against particulates are equipped with NIOSH-certified high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters or other filters certified by NIOSH for particulates under 42 CFR part 84.