

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

Checklist for Respirator Maintenance and Care

Check to make sure that your facility has met the following requirements:

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Respirators are provided that are clean, sanitary, and in good working order.
- Respirators are cleaned and disinfected using the procedures specified in Appendix B- 2 of the standard. Respirators are cleaned and disinfected:
 - As often as necessary when issued for the exclusive use of one employee.
 - Before being worn by different individuals.
 - After each use for emergency use respirators.
 - After each use for respirators used for fit testing and training.

Storage

- Respirators are stored to protect them from damage from the elements, and from becoming deformed.

Emergency respirators are stored:

- To be accessible to the work area.
- In compartments marked as such.
- In accordance with manufacturer's recommendations.

Inspections

- Routine-use respirators are inspected before each use and during cleaning.
- SCBAs and emergency respirators are inspected monthly and checked for proper function before and after each use.
- Emergency escape-only respirators are inspected before being carried into the workplace for use.

Inspections include:

- Check of respirator function.
- Tightness of connections.
- Condition of the facepiece, head straps, valves, and cartridges.

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___ Condition of elastomeric parts.

___ For SCBAs, inspection includes checking that cylinders are fully charged, and that regulators and warning devices function properly.

___ Emergency use respirators are certified by documenting the inspection, and by tagging the information either to the respirator or its compartment, or storing it with inspection reports.

Repairs

___ Respirators that have failed inspection are taken out of service.

___ Repairs are made only by trained personnel.

___ Only NIOSH-approved parts are used.

___ Reducing and admission valves, regulators and alarms are adjusted or repaired only by the manufacturer or a technician trained by the manufacturer.