

Voluntary Use of Respirators Form






Instructions

- This form should be completed by any employee who voluntarily wears a respirator when not required to wear one under the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Respirator Standard 29 CFR 1910.134.
- Please complete this form and send it to labsafety@uno.edu before the voluntary use of any respirator. Store completed copies in your Lab Safety Binder.

What is a Respirator

A respirator includes any of these types of inhalation protection devices:

Elastomeric Half Facepiece Respirators		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reusable • Used with replaceable cartridges or filters • Cover the nose and mouth • Provide protection against gases, vapors, or particles when equipped with the appropriate cartridge or filter
Elastomeric Full Facepiece Respirators		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reusable • Used with replaceable canisters, cartridges, or filters • Covers the face, eyes, nose, and mouth • Provide protection against gases, vapors, or particles when equipped with the appropriate cartridge or filter

<p>Filtering Facepiece Respirators</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disposable • Half facepiece respirators • Filter out particles such as dusts, mists, and fumes • Do NOT provide protection against gases and vapors
<p>Powered Air-Purifying Respirators (PAPRs)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include a battery-powered blower that pulls air through attached filters, canisters, or cartridges • Provide protection against gases, vapors, or particles, when equipped with the appropriate cartridge, canister, or filter • Loose-fitting PAPRs do not require fit testing and can be used with facial hair
<p>Supplied-Air Respirators</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connected to a separate source that supplies clean compressed air through a hose • Can be lightweight and used while working for long hours in environments not IDLH
<p>Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBAs)</p>	 <p><i>Example of an open-circuit SCBA</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used for entry into or escape from environments considered to be IDLH • Contain their own breathing air supply • Can either be open circuit or closed circuit
<p>Combined Respirators</p>	 <p><i>Example of an SAR/SCBA</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can either be a supplied-air/SCBA respirator or supplied-air/air-purifying respirator • The SCBA type has a self-contained air supply if primary airline fails and can be used in IDLH environments

Note: Respirators **do not include dust masks.**

Respirator Information

Respirators are an effective method of protection against designed 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 user. Sometimes, users may wear respirators to avoid exposures to hazards, even if the amount of 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.

Requirements

If you choose to voluntarily wear a respirator, the following are required:

- Read and comply with all instructions provided by the manufacturer on use, maintenance, cleaning and care, and warnings regarding the limitations of the respirator.
 - Choose respirators certified for use to protect against the contaminant of concern. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of the US Department of Health and Human Services certifies respirators. A label of 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.
 - Do not wear your respirator into atmospheres containing contaminants for which your respirator is not designated to protect against. 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.
 - Store your respirator in a manner that prevents you from mistakenly using someone else's respirator.
 - Ensure you store your respirator according to the manufacturer's guidelines.
 - Do not store respirators hanging from their straps.
 - Clean your respirator periodically according to the manufacturer's guidelines.
 - Inspect your respirator before each use for tears, rips, holes, or other damage that may make it unsuitable for use.
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Department:	PI/Supervisor:
Print Name:	
Signature:	
Date:	