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Temporary Worker Initiative

Respiratory Protection

This is part of a series of guidance documents developed under the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA's) Temporary Worker Initiative (TWI). This Initiative focuses on compliance with safety and health requirements when **temporary workers** are employed under the joint employment of a **staffing agency** and a **host employer**.

Temporary workers are entitled to the same protections under the Occupational Safety and

OSHA requires exposures to hazardous substances to be controlled to the extent feasible by following



Disclaimer

This program is intended to be a resource of occupational safety and health and is not a substitute for any of the provisions of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 or for any standards issued by the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).



Scope

This standard applies to:

- General Industry (Part 1910.134),
- Shipyards (Part 1915.154),
- Marine Terminals (Part 1917.92),
- Longshoring (Part 1918.102), and
- Construction (Part 1926.103)



Objectives

During this webinar attendees will be introduced to:

- Exposure Assessment
- Elements of a Respiratory Protection Program
- Types of Respirators
- Host Employer Responsibilities
- Staffing Agency Responsibilities
- How OSHA can help



Exposure Assessment

When? When you expose your employees to a respiratory hazard and/or require them to wear respirators. When employees notice symptoms (e.g., irritation, odor) or complain of respiratory health effects.

 Employers must characterize the nature and magnitude of employee exposures to respiratory hazards before selecting respiratory protection equipment.

How much employee exposure is there in the workplace?

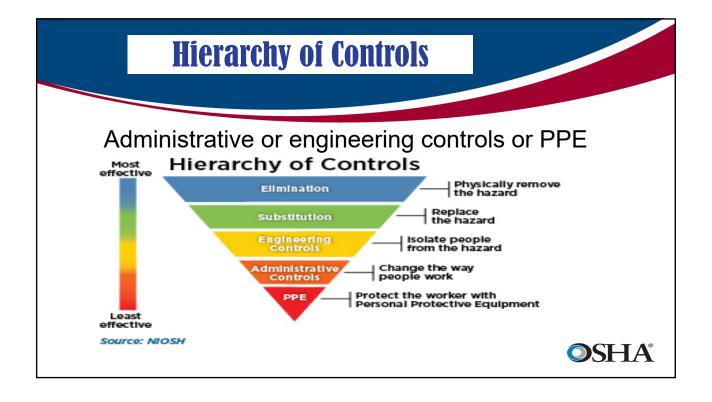
- Sampling
- Objective Information
- Variation



Employee Exposure

- Exposure to a concentration of an airborne contaminant that would occur if the employee were **not** using respiratory protection.
- Specific characteristics of the airborne hazard must be established in order to select an appropriate respirator.
 - Is the airborne contaminant a particulate (dust, fumes, mist, aerosol) or a gas/vapor?
 - Is the airborne contaminant a chemical and in Safety Data Sheets?
 - Is the airborne contaminant a biological (bacteria, mold, spores, fungi, virus)?
 - How much employee exposure is there in the workplace?





Respiratory Protection Standard

- (a) Permissible practice
- (b) Definitions
- (c) Respirator program
- (d) Selection of respirators
- (e) Medical evaluation
- (f) Fit testing
- (g) Use of respirators
- (h) Maintenance and care
- (i) Breathing air quality and use
- (i) Identification of filters. cartridges, and canisters
- (k) Training and information

- (I) Program evaluation
- (m) Recordkeeping
- (n) Dates
- (o) Appendices (mandatory)
 - A: Fit Testing Procedures
 - B-1: User Seal Checks
 - B-2: Cleaning Procedures
 - C: Medical Questionnaire
 - D: Information for Employees

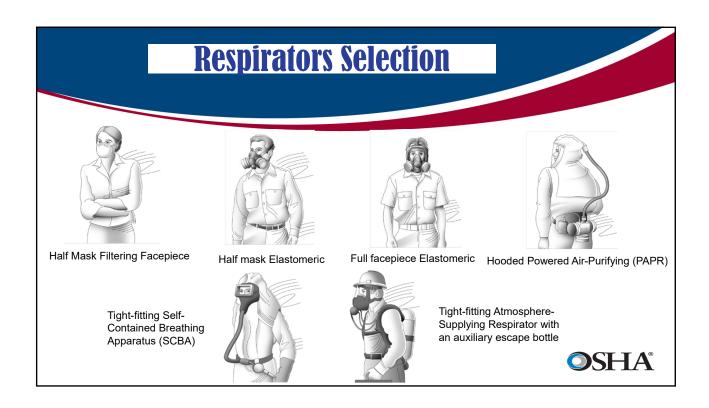
Wearing Respirators When Not Required Under the Standard OSHA*

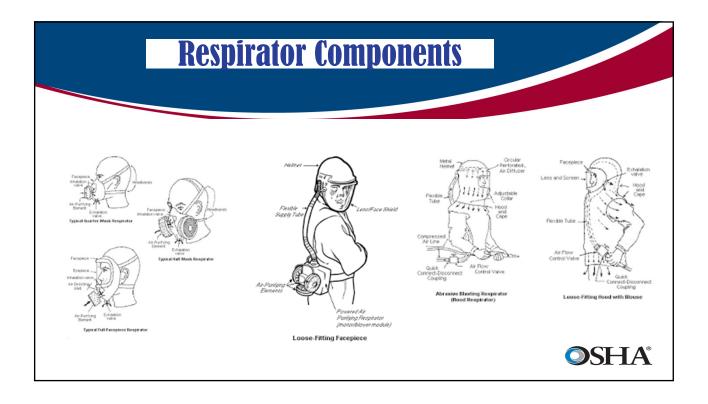


Respirator Program Elements

- Selection
- Medical Evaluation
- Fit Testing
- Use
- Maintenance and Care
- · Breathing Air Quality and Use
- Training
- Program Evaluation







Factors Influencing Respirator Selection

- The physical configuration of the jobsite
- Worker medical condition
- Worker comfort
- Environmental
- Communication
- Other PPE



Medical Evaluation

- Must provide a medical evaluation to determine the employee's ability to use a respirator, before fit testing and use.
- Physician or other licensed health care professional (PLHCP)
- Medical questionnaire or equivalent examination
- Follow-up medical examination



Fit Testing

- Facial Hair
- Sizes/Types
- Annually
- · Qualitative or Quantitative
- Training



Maintenance and Care

- Provide users with respirators that are clean, sanitary and in good working order.
- Appendix B-2 or equivalent manufacturer's recommendations
- Storage
- Multiple users
- Repair of disposal of respirators



Training

- Annually
- · Limitations and capabilities
- Requirements of the standard
- Inspection, don, doff, and user seal checks
- Retraining
- Appendix D



Program Evaluation

- Conduct evaluations of the workplace and program to ensure effective implementation of the program.
- Consult employees to assess their views of the program effectiveness.
- · Update as necessary.
- Share the knowledge.



Joint Responsibility

- · Voluntary or required use
 - · Medical evaluation
 - Respirator presenting a potential hazard
 - Appendix A
 - Appropriate respirators
 - Respiratory Standard (e.g., training)

- Records
 - Physician's or other licensed healthcare professional written recommendations
 - Medical evaluations questionnaires
 - Fit testing
 - Training
 - · Respiratory protection program



Record Retention

- Disclosure/Transfer of written recommendation
 - Employee to host employer
 - Host employer to host employer
 - Staffing employer to employee or host employee
 - PLHCP to staffing employer/host employer
- Acceptance of existing written recommendation (e.g. if the work environment and respirator remains the same, due diligence.)

Host Employer Responsibilities

- Determining exposure levels
- Maintaining engineering, administrative, and work practice controls
- Providing an appropriate respirator
- Maintaining a respiratory protection program (e.g., cleaning and maintenance)



Host Employer Responsibilities

- Familiar with chemicals and processes.
- · Program already in place for the permanent employees.
- Appropriate surveillance of required work area conditions and degree of employee exposure.
- Reevaluation of respirator use.
 - Changes in the process or chemicals.
 - Employees experiencing symptoms.
 - Proper use of respirators.



Staffing Agency Responsibilities

- Awareness of the respiratory hazards.
- Protective measures taken by the host employer.
- Requirements of the respiratory protection program.
- COMMUNICATION
 - Employees
 - Host employees



Communication is Key!

- The staffing agency and host employer should establish which party is responsible for each aspect of a respiratory protection program prior to work beginning.
- The details of the protections to be provided can be clearly established in the language of the contract between the employers.
- Neither employer may avoid its ultimate responsibilities under the OSH Act by requiring another party to perform them.

OSHA°

OSHA Help

- Consultation
- Compliance Assistance
- · Factsheets, videos, compliance guides
- Safety & Health topics pages
- Resource links
- And more...



