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THE RESPIRATOR PROGRAM

If an evaluation of the workplace shows that air contaminants are present above permissible levels, an acceptable written respirator program must be established and followed including the following:

Medical Exam. A doctor or other medical professional will examine the users medical history and current physical condition to determine if respirator use is advisable.

Selection. Several models of approved respirators should be available for test fitting. Consider mask comfort when properly fitted against the face.

Fit Test. The user will be subjected to various tests to determine if the selected respirator fits correctly. These tests use flavored mists or smoke in an attempt to find any leaks as the user moves his or her head to different positions.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

Whenever possible, respirator hazards or any other safety or health hazard should be engineered out of the work environment. Only after all attempts to eliminate hazards have been implemented will respirators be used for employee protection.

RESPIRATOR PROTECTION FOR YOUR COMPANY

Safety in Hazardous Atmospheres



RESPIRATORS

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standard requires employers to establish and maintain a written respirator program to protect those employees who wear respirators. This pamphlet is not intended to replace that standard but help explain it.

Whenever a respirator is used in the workplace, a full respirator program should be followed as prescribed by OSHA guidelines.

RESPIRATOR BASICS

Respirators are designed to filter solids, liquids, gases, vapors, and fumes from the atmosphere. Different respirators will filter to different degrees of efficiency.

The voluntary use of dust mask type respirators in an atmosphere where no other hazards are present is excluded from the requirements of the OSHA standard.

RESPIRATORS AT YOUR COMPANY

The operations of the Company present no hazardous atmospheres to our employees. We provide disposable dust masks for our employees comfort on a voluntary use basis. We encourage all our

employees to read and follow the manufacturer's instructions for respirator use and limitations.

TYPES OF RESPIRATORS

Basic respirator groups may be one of the following: supplied air, air purifying, or self contained. Each type offers a varying degree of protection for different hazards.

Air Purifying. Several models fall under the Air Purifying category, they are designed to remove harmful particle from the atmosphere. Air purifying respirators should not be used as protection from gases like carbon monoxide or low oxygen atmospheres.

Disposable Dust Mask Intended to remove large, non-oil based particles from the atmosphere.

Cartridge Filter designed to protect the user from specific particles or mist. The disposable cartridges are color coded for their filtering qualities and can be easily changed or used in combination. Cartridges should have an end of service life indicator or follow a replacement schedule.

The other two groups of respirators are intended for use in atmospheres presenting an immediate danger to life or health or oxygen deficiency.

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus. SCBA respirators require the user to carry an oxygen supply or tank with them. This style allows for more freedom but reduces the time available due to limited air supply.

Supplied Air. This style of respirator allows the user to remain in a hazardous atmosphere for extended periods of time. The reach of the air supplying umbilical cord defines the work area.

RESPIRATOR MAINTENANCE

Your respirator should be cleaned and stored in a sealed plastic bag when not in use. Do not share your respiratory with other people. Read and follow the manufacturer's directions for use, repair, cleaning, and limitations. Make sure your respirator and filters are certified to protect you from the specific contaminates in the atmosphere.

