Requirements for Different Types of Respirators

This bulletin is designed to help you understand what is required for various types of respirators. It details the difference between "Voluntary Use Only" and "Required Use of these respirators".





Half Mask & Full Facepiece

Voluntary Use Only

- Employer determines that the respirator itself does not create a hazard.
- The employer must provide Appendix D of the Respiratory Standard to employees.
- The employer must establish and implement those elements of a written respirator program that are necessary to ensure that the employee is medically able to use the respirator and the respirator is cleaned, stored, and maintained.

Required Use

- Employer to establish and implement a written respirator program with work site-specific procedures that cover:
- Respirator selection
- Medical evaluations
- Fit testing
- Use of respirators
- Maintenance and care of respirators
- Breathing air quality and use
- Training and information
- Program evaluation

N95 Masks

Voluntary Use Only

- Employer determines that the respirator itself does not create a hazard.
- The employer must provide Appendix D of the Respiratory Standard to employees.
- No written respirator program is required.
 - *Number of straps has no bearing on respirators requirements if particulate respirators or masks are used voluntarily.

Required Use

- Employer to establish and implement a written respirator program with work site-specific procedures that cover:
- Respirator selection
- Medical evaluations
- Fit testing
- Use of respirators
- Maintenance and care of respirators
- o Breathing air quality and use
- Training and information
- Program evaluation

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Please contact the Loss Control team at: losscontrol@bhhc.com for any further questions.