

CSUN Respiratory Protection Program - Rev 2.2

1.0 Policy

It is the policy of California State University, Northridge that employees who enter or work in areas with atmospheric contaminants do so in accordance with OSHA standards and other regulatory guidelines which may apply. No employee shall use a respiratory protective device without following the Respiratory Protection Program.

2.0 Purpose/Scope

2.1 Purpose

To establish clear and consistent procedures for the use of respiratory protective devices.

2.2 Scope

The requirements of this policy apply to university employees who may use respiratory protective devices.

3.0 Definitions

Contaminant: A harmful, irritating, or nuisance material that is foreign to the normal atmosphere.

Immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH): Any atmosphere that poses an immediate hazard to life or produces immediate irreversible debilitating effects on health.

Oxygen deficient atmosphere: An atmosphere which contains less than 19.5% oxygen.

Respirator: A device designed to protect the wearer from the inhalation of harmful atmospheres.

Sanitation: The removal of dirt and the inhibiting of the action of agents that cause infection or disease.

4.0 References

4.1 California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 5144.

4.2 Code of Federal Regulations, Title 29, Section 1910.134.

4.3 American National Standard Institute Z88.2 1980.

5.0 Administration Responsibilities

5.1 Human Resource Services

1. Results of the medical evaluation will be maintained in the office of Human Resource Services.

CSUN Respiratory Protection Program - Rev 2.2

5.2 Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S)

1. Establish and update the written Respiratory Protection Program.
2. Provide consultation/training to departments according to their specific needs.
3. Conduct hazard assessment surveys in response to departmental requests or as a general survey.
4. Assist departments in developing methods for reducing or controlling airborne contaminants.
5. Recommend respiratory protective devices for applicable departments.
6. Conduct respiratory fit testing.
7. Maintain training records of fit testing, general training activities, and documentation of medical authorizations.

5.3 Supervisors

1. Responsible for ensuring that all respirator users have received medical approval, training, and fit testing as described in this program prior to the use of respiratory protective equipment.
2. Ensure that appropriate respiratory protective equipment is provided to employees and enforce the use of such devices when required.
3. Conduct periodic inspections of respirators to ensure that devices are kept in good condition and maintained in a sanitary manner.

5.4 Employees

1. Employees are ultimately responsible for wearing respiratory protective equipment whenever working in hazardous contaminated areas.
2. Employees should utilize respiratory protective equipment in accordance with instructions and training received.
3. Respirators shall be inspected prior to every use to ensure proper working condition.
4. Only the respirator for which the individual has been fitted shall be worn.
5. Malfunctioning respirators shall be reported immediately to supervisory personnel for repair or replacement.

6.0 Selection & Issuance

6.1 Selection

1. Respirators selected must be approved by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) and the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). An approved NIOSH and MSHA shall contain the following:
 - a. An assigned identification number placed on each unit.
 - b. A label identifying the type of hazard it protects against and additional information indicating limitations and component parts.
2. Respiratory selection shall be done by the Environmental Health and Safety Office (EH&S).
3. Respirator selection shall require consideration of the following:
 - a. The nature of the hazard.
 - b. The characteristics of the hazardous operation or process.
 - c. The location of the hazardous area with respect to a safe area having respirable air.
 - d. The period of time for which respiratory protection may be provided.
 - e. The physical characteristics, functional capabilities, and limitations of various types of respirators.

6.2 Issuance

1. Employee must first receive written medical authorization to use a respiratory device. A copy of this authorization must be given to EH&S.
2. Respirator fit testing will be conducted by EH&S.
3. Respirators are issued by the Physical Plant Management stockroom after the employee has passed the respirator fit test. The stockroom must be given the completed fit test form before any respiratory equipment will be issued.

7.0 Surveillance and Evaluations

7.1 Hazardous Assessment

1. Respirators must be selected on the basis of the hazard(s) to which the employee may be exposed.

CSUN Respiratory Protection Program - Rev 2.2

2. Recognition and evaluation of a respiratory hazard is an essential part of selecting a respirator when it is clearly impractical to remove airborne contaminants.
 - a. Proper hazard assessment requires thorough knowledge of the job being performed, end-products and by-products.
 - b. Proper hazard assessment also requires the knowledge of the nature of the hazard including its chemical and physical properties, toxicity, oxygen deficiency airborne concentration and physiological effects in the body.
3. The EH&S office shall be responsible for hazard assessment of all respiratory equipment being used.

8.0 Atmosphere Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (IDLH)

IDLH conditions require a minimum of two individuals with approved respiratory equipment to be on the job site and be responsible in maintaining communication. A stand by person must be in the least accident risk area and will have appropriate rescue equipment.

Before anyone enters an IDLH environment, EH&S MUST be notified in order to provide continuous monitoring and evaluation of the environment.

9.0 Medical Surveillance

9.1 Medical Evaluation

1. Due to physiological stresses imposed through the use of respirators, users are required to have a medical evaluation prior to the issuance of a respirator.
2. A medical evaluation shall determine if an individual is physically able to perform the work and use the equipment.
3. Written approval from the medical evaluator shall be given to EH&S prior to fit testing.
4. Medical evaluation documentation shall be given to Human Resources Services.

9.2 Visual Impairment

1. Contact Lenses

- a. Contact lenses shall not be permitted while wearing a respirator equipped with a full-facepiece, helmet, hood, or suit.

2. Prescription Glasses

CSUN Respiratory Protection Program - Rev 2.2

- a. Prescription eye glasses with temple bars shall not be used while wearing a full-facepiece respirator.
- b. As a temporary measure glasses with short temple bars may be taped to the respirator wearer's head.
- c. Special corrective lenses which are made to be mounted inside a full facepiece shall be used by a person who needs corrective lenses.

9.3 Facial Preventives

1. Facial Hair

- a. Facial hair prevents a proper face-to-facepiece seal. A respirator equipped with a facepiece shall not be worn if facial hair comes between the sealing periphery of the facepiece or if the facial hair interferes with the valve function. ANSI 3.5.8 Z88.2-1980

2. Facial Features

- a. If facial features such as scars, deep skin creases, prominent cheekbones, severe acne, and the lack of teeth or dentures prevent a respirator from sealing properly the person shall not be permitted to wear a respirator.

10.0 Training

All university employees who participate in the Respiratory Protection Program shall receive annual training in the requirements of this program. Training shall include the following elements:

1. The effects of atmospheric contaminants on the individuals health.
2. The limitations and capabilities of the respiratory equipment.
3. The selection, fitting, and proper use and care of their respiratory protective equipment.
4. The purpose of and procedures for respirator fit testing.

11.0 Cleaning & Sanitizing

11.1 Sanitation

1. After removing the filter elements and/or straps, wash the respirator with mild soap in warm water. A bristle brush can be used to aid in the removal of dirt, or immerse the respirator in a sanitary solution recommended by the manufacturer for at least two minutes.

CSUN Respiratory Protection Program - Rev 2.2

2. After washing, thoroughly rinse in clean water and drain. Allow to air dry in a clean place.
3. Before passing a respirator from one person to the next, the respirator must be cleaned and sanitized.

12.0 Inspection & Maintenance

12.1 Inspection

1. All respirators shall be inspected routinely before and after each use.

12.2 Storage

1. Respirators can be permanently damaged if they are not stored properly. After use, clean, sanitize, and store respirator in a resealable plastic bag.
2. Respirators shall be kept in a cabinet separate from the work environment, away from sunlight, dust, moisture, extreme temperatures and damaging chemicals.

12.3 Maintenance

1. Repairs or replacements of parts shall be done only by experienced persons.
2. All damaged or faulty components are to be repaired using parts from the same brand of respirator. Use of unapproved parts would void any NIOSH/MSHA approval.

13.0 Record Keeping

13.1 Exposure Measurements

1. Documentation of employee's atmospheric contaminants exposure shall be maintained in the EH&S office.

13.2 Respiratory Fit Testing

1. EH&S shall maintain documentation of employee's respiratory fit testing.
2. The Fit Test Record shall include the following:
 - a. Name and job classification of employee.
 - b. Examiner's name and date of respiratory fit testing.
 - c. Employee most recent hazardous assessment.
 - d. The NIOSH/MSHA approval number.

CSUN Respiratory Protection Program - Rev 2.2

13.3 Record Retention

1. EH&S shall maintain employee exposure monitoring records for 30 years.
2. EH&S shall maintain respiratory fit testing results for duration of employee's employment.
3. Employee medical records shall be maintained with Human Resource Services for the duration of the employment plus 30 years.

13.4 Access to Records

1. All records shall be provided upon request to employees, former employees, and representatives of employees.