

SAMPLE

RESPIRATORY PROTECTION WRITTEN PROGRAM
FOR

VOLUNTARY USE OF
AIR PURIFYING RESPIRATORS

OSHA Consultation Program

WI State Laboratory of Hygiene

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This sample program is provided as an aid in training employers to write their individual programs. It does not alter the requirements of the OSHA respiratory protection standard (29 CFR 1910.134). This sample program must be tailored to accommodate the particular and unique hazards encountered in that employers location and work processes.

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(company name)

**RESPIRATORY PROTECTION PROGRAM FOR THE
VOLUNTARY USE OF AIR PURIFYING RESPIRATORS
OTHER THAN DUST MASKS (FILTERING FACEPIECES)**

This program is designed to protect employee health even though it has been determined that respirators are not required. This program is designed for compliance with OSHA Standard 29 CFR 1910.134(c)(2).

(*position*)_____ is responsible for administering this program.

(*position*)_____ has determined that respirators are not required for the following jobs, tasks or departments:

The following is required for employees who voluntarily use respirators other than filtering facepieces:

- 1) The employee will contact (*position*)_____ to initiate the medical evaluation.
- 2) The designated health care provider (PLHCP) is _____.
The PLHCP will perform medical evaluations using a medical questionnaire or an initial medical examination that obtains the same information as the medical questionnaire (information required is contained in 1910.134 Appendix C).
This evaluation will be administered confidentially, at no cost to the employee, during the employee's normal working hours or at a time and place convenient to the employee, and in a manner the employee understands. The employee will have an opportunity to discuss the questionnaire and examination results with the health care provider (PLHCP).
- 3) The (*position*)_____ will provide the health care provider with the following supplemental information:
 - (A) The type and weight of the respirator to be used by the employee;
 - (B) The duration and frequency of respirator use (including use for rescue and escape);
 - (C) The expected physical work effort;
 - (D) Additional protective clothing and equipment to be worn;

- (E) Temperature and humidity extremes that may be encountered.
 - (F) A copy of this written respiratory protection program.
 - (G) A copy of the respiratory protection standard (29 CFR 1910.34).
- 4) An additional medical evaluation may be necessary as determined by the health care provider.
 - 5) (*position*)_____ will receive and keep on file the health care provider's written opinion on the employee's ability to use the respirator.
 - 6) Respirators will be cleaned and disinfected according to the manufacturer's recommendation or those found in Appendix B-2 of the standard.
 - 7) All respirators shall be stored to protect them from damage, contamination, dust, sunlight, extreme temperatures, excessive moisture, and damaging chemicals, and they shall be packed or stored to prevent deformation of the facepiece and exhalation valve.
 - 8) (*position*)_____ will provide a copy of and employees are to read Appendix D of the OSHA Respirator Standard 29 CFR 1910.134, a copy of which follows:
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Appendix D 1910.134 (Non-Mandatory) Information for Employees Using Respirators When Not Required Under the Standard

Respirators are an effective method of protection against designated 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 worker. Sometimes, workers may wear respirators to avoid exposures to hazards, even if the amount of hazardous 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.

You should do the following:

1. Read and heed all instructions provided by the manufacturer on use, maintenance, cleaning and care, and warnings regarding the respirators limitations.
2. Choose respirators certified for use to protect against the contaminant of concern. NIOSH, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, certifies respirators. A label or 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.
3. Do not wear your respirator into atmospheres containing contaminants for which your respirator is not designed 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.
4. Keep track of your respirator so that you do not mistakenly use someone else's respirator.