

10.18.22

# RESPIRATORY PROTECTION PROGRAM

## IT'S EASY TO NOT BE WHEEZY

### PURPOSE

Each Subcontractor working on Company projects will comply with 29 CFR 1926, Construction Industry Regulations, Subpart E - Personal Protective & Life Saving Equipment.

Control of airborne contaminants is accomplished, when feasible, by accepted engineering controls. When effective engineering controls are not feasible or while they are being implemented, approved respirators are used. The Respiratory Protection Program is designed to protect employee-owners from airborne contaminants.

### DEFINITIONS

The following are key definitions that are important to the Respiratory Protection Program and should be understood by all who need to wear a respirator.

#### PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

**NOUN - /PROHGRAM ED'MINI,STREITER/**

Designated individual responsible for administrating the Respiratory Protection Program.

#### HEALTH SERVICE CONSULTANT

**NOUN - /HELTETH 'SERVIS KEN'SULT(E)NT/**

Third-party consultant responsible for performing medical evaluations for employee-owners and performing fit testing, as needed on the jobsite.

#### INDUSTRIAL HYGIENIST CONSULTANT

**NOUN - /IN'DUSTRIEL HAI'DEINIST KEN'SULT(E)NT/**

Third-party consultant responsible for determining on-site atmosphere hazards.

### ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

#### Project Supervision

- Provide respiratory equipment when such equipment is necessary to protect the health of the employee-owner.
- Complete the Worksite Specific Respiratory Protection Plan prior to the start of any work requiring respiratory protection, with the assistance of the Program Administrator. You can get this from your Safety Manager.
- Contact the Program Administrator for consultation on physical respiratory hazards and respirator selection and use.

#### Program Administrator

- The Safety Director or their designate will serve as the Program Administrator.
- The Program Administrator is responsible for the administration of the Respiratory Protection Program as described:
  - + Maintain facilities and procedures for fit testing.
  - + Coordinate training for employee-owners.
- Establish care and maintenance requirements for individually assigned respirators.
- Audit care and use of respirators.
- Consult with project supervision or an industrial hygienist consultant, if applicable, to
  - + Determine if airborne contaminant levels have changed, which would require a change in respirator use or type used.
  - + Provide guidance on the types of respirators to be used.
  - + Approve types of filters, canisters, and cartridges used with respirators.
- Maintaining fit tests, training, and medical approval records.

#### Employee-owners

- Wear, inspect, store, and maintain respiratory equipment issued in accordance with training and instructions received.
- Report to project supervision any of the following:
  - + Malfunction of equipment
  - + Change in physical condition that could affect respirator fit
  - + Change in medical condition that could affect the ability to wear a respirator

### PROCEDURES

#### General Requirements

- Employee-owners must only wear respirator equipment approved by the Program Administrator.
- Employee-owners must be issued their own respirators when practical.
- Each time a respirator is donned, the user must
  - + Check to see that it is properly sealed and will not loosen during use.
  - + Leak test the respirator according to established procedures.
    - » Positive and negative pressure fit check
- Respirators must not be worn when conditions prevent facepiece-to-face seal.
  - + Employee-owners required to use a respirator are not allowed to have a beard, sideburns, or a mustache that passes between the face and the sealing surface of the respirator.
  - + Any employee-owner with a facial condition that prevents a proper seal (missing dentures, growths, severe acne, one-day beard, etc.) must not be allowed to perform duties that require the use of a respirator until that facial condition is corrected.

#### Medical Evaluation

- Employee-owners being considered for inclusion in the Respirator Protection Program must participate in a medical evaluation. A determination is made initially upon employment or changes of job classification requiring respiratory protection.
- Additional evaluations will be provided if an employee-owner shows signs or symptoms that are related to their ability to wear a respirator.
- Employee-owners will fill out the Medical Questionnaire for Respirator Users, or an equivalent. This is a Health Service Consultant provided questionnaire, which will be reviewed by the Health Service Consultant to ensure that the employee-owner is physically and psychologically able to perform their work while wearing respiratory equipment.
- If the Health Service Consultant denies approval, the employee-owner will not be able to participate in the Respiratory Protection Program.

#### Fit Testing

- Fit testing will be performed for the following:
  - + Prior to initial use
  - + Whenever a different respirator of size, style, model, or make is used
  - + If the employee-owner's physical or medical condition has changed
  - + At least annually thereafter
- Each potential respirator user will be fit tested by the Health Service Consultant or by a trained member of project supervision designated by the Program Administrator to assure proper face-to-facepiece seal.
- Fit testing will be required for all tight-fitting type respirators when employee-owners are required to wear respirators for the task.
- Records for respirator fit testing will be maintained at the jobsite.

#### Inspection & Maintenance

- Respirators must be inspected as follows:
  - + All respirators used must be inspected by the user before and after use and during cleaning.
  - + Emergency respirators must be inspected at least once a month, as well as after each use, with records maintained of inspection dates and findings.
  - + The Air Purifying Respirator Checklist is available to assist in facilitating the inspection of respiratory equipment.
- Respirator inspections must include the following:
  - Evaluate the condition of the facepiece, headbands, valves, connection tabs, and cartridges.
  - Replace defective parts or take the respirator out of service.
  - Gently stretch rubber or elastomer parts to detect cracks or deterioration.
  - Evaluate the tightness of connections.
  - Evaluate cleanliness.
  - Only trained persons may make repairs with parts supplied for that respirator. Only those repairs recommended by the manufacturer may be made.
  - Gas and vapor cartridges on air purifying type respirators will be changed daily at a minimum unless otherwise instructed by the Program Administrator.
  - Particulate filters will be changed if they become damaged, soiled, or an increase in breathing becomes noticeable.
  - Cleaning
    - + Respirators shall be maintained in a clean, sanitary condition. Individually assigned respirators shall be cleaned after each day's use. Respirators issued to more than one employee-owner shall be cleaned and disinfected before being worn by different individuals.
    - + Respirators are to be cleaned in accordance with manufacturer recommendations or as instructed by the Program Administrator.
  - Storage
    - + Respirators must be stored so that no pressure is placed on the facepiece and exhalation valve. Improper storage can deform the facepiece and create a poor sealing surface. The straps must not be stored inside the facepiece. Respirators must be protected against dust, sunlight, hot, extreme cold, excessive moisture, and damaging chemicals.
    - + Organic vapor cartridges may be left installed in the facepiece if desired and stored in the storage container.
    - + Dust/fiber cartridges may be returned to the cleaned facepiece as long as they are covered with protective cartridge covers. If protective covers are not used, the cartridges must be removed from the facepiece and stored in plastic bags. The facepiece and the bagged cartridges should be stored together in the storage container.
  - Optional Use of Respiratory Equipment
    - + If the use of filtering facepieces ("dust masks") are provided at the employee-owner's request when exposure levels are below permissible limits, all phases of the Respirator Protection Program do not have to be followed. "Dust mask" (filtering facepiece) use will be allowed on approved job descriptions where respirator use is not required.
    - + Appendix D of OSHA 1910.134 is mandatory information for employee-owners using respirators when not required under the standard. The Voluntary Respirator User Information will be provided and signed off by the employee-owner.

### TRAINING

#### General Training Requirements

- Respirator users will receive training in the following:
  - + Why the respirator is necessary and how improper fit, usage, or maintenance can compromise the protective effect of the respirator
  - + The limitations and capabilities of a respirator
  - + How to inspect, put on, remove, use, and check the seals of a respirator
  - + What the procedures are for maintenance and storage of the respirator
  - + How to recognize the medical signs and symptoms that may limit or prevent the effective use of respirators
- Retraining shall be conducted annually, and when the following situations occur:
  - + Changes in the workplace that renders previous training obsolete
  - + Inadequacies in the employee-owner's knowledge or use of the respirator
- Training shall be documented. Copies of all fit testing and training shall be maintained at the jobsite and will be available upon request.