

Voluntary Use of a Filtering Facepiece Form

Personnel have the option to wear a filtering facepiece (i.e., N95) on a voluntary basis during activities or while working in areas in which a Northwestern (NU) Safety Professional has determined nuisance dust exposure is below OSHA's Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL). OSHA requires anyone voluntarily wearing a filtering facepiece to be provided with the following information:

29 CFR 1910.134 Appendix D: 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:

- A. Read and heed all instructions provided by the manufacturer on use, maintenance, cleaning and care, and warnings regarding the respirator's limitations.
- B. 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.
- C. 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.
- D. Keep track of your respirator so that you do not mistakenly use someone else's respirator.

To request voluntary use of a filtering facepiece, complete the section below and submit the form to a NU Safety Professional:

Print Name: _____ Net ID: _____ Work Phone Number: _____

Job Title: _____ Department: _____

Supervisor/PI: _____ Location of use: _____

Reason for using filtering facepiece (i.e., describe nature of work, location of work, and type of dust): _____

By signing below, the employee agrees they have read and understood the information provided above:

Employee Signature: _____ Date: _____

Voluntary Use Request Review with a NU Safety Professional:

The filtering facepiece requested is approved, when fitted properly, for use against nuisance, non-hazardous particulates (i.e., fiberglass, drywall dust, sawdust, dirt, pollen, animal dander). It will not provide protection from any chemical vapors (i.e., those associated with spray paints or solvents) and is not intended for use during work that may involve exposure to airborne asbestos fibers, silica dust, or heavy metal particles.

- Employee has completed online Respiratory Protection training
- Employee has reviewed manufacturer's guidelines for _____

Filtering facepiece make/model/manufacturer

By signing below, both the employee and a NU Safety Professional agree the employee may wear a filtering facepiece for the above detailed task(s) or area(s). Any change in work tasks or areas would require review and approval by a NU Safety Professional:

Employee Signature: _____ Date: _____

NU Safety Professional Signature: _____ Date: _____

For additional questions in non-research areas, contact:

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For additional questions in research areas, contact:

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