

INFORMATION FOR EMPLOYEES USING RESPIRATORS WHEN NOT REQUIRED

Consistent with Appendix D to 29 C.F.R. § 1910.134 and 1910.504, entitled “Information for Employees Using Respirators When Not Required Under the Standard,” which is incorporated and adopted in New Mexico pursuant to NMAC § 11.5.2.9, please be aware of the following:

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 respirator’s 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. Please be aware that this information does not apply to KN-95 masks. Also, please be aware that there are a number of counterfeit N-95 respirators/masks and you are encouraged to check whether your respirator/mask is NIOSH-certified at [Counterfeit Respirators / Misrepresentation of NIOSH-Approval | NPPTL | NIOSH | CDC](#).
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.

Employees using a respirator on a voluntary basis should sign the acknowledgement below, which will be kept of file by their supervisor.

I understand the above and am using a respirator voluntarily. I attest that I have viewed the training video. I am not cleared to wear a required respirator and will contact EHS if I am required to wear an N-95 or other respirator as part of my job duties.

Signature	Title	Date
Printed Name	<input type="text"/>	