After a job hazard assessment has been performed by EHS in coordination with the College/ Department Safety Officer, or Campus safety liaison, and a determination has been made that a respirator is NOT required to safely conduct the job task(s), Air-Purifying Respirators may be used on a voluntary basis to control “nuisance levels” of air contaminants, where such use does not create an additional hazard, and where approved by the above-noted parties. Nuisance levels can include airborne exposure concentrations that do not exceed the U.S. Department of Labor/ Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) Permissible Exposure Limits (PEL’s), or other specific referenced standards. Where no standards are available, voluntary use shall be otherwise determined through the hazard assessment for such use.

In addition to the hazard assessment, the *OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard (29 CFR 1910.134), Appendix D* information must be reviewed with Voluntary Users. This is excerpted subsequently at Page 2, in addition to a verification of review section. **Depending on the type respirator used, other Penn State Respiratory Protection Program requirements may apply.**  Following your review and completion of all applicable requirements with Voluntary Users, complete the subsequent verification section at the end of this form.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Respirator Type1** | **Training** | **SpecificTraining** | **Medical** | **Respirator Fit Test** | **Other Check** | **Full**  **RPP** |
| Filtering-Facepiece (dust mask) | App. D | YES | NO | NO | N/A | NO |
| Any Tight-Fitting Facepiece | App. D | YES | YES | YES | N/A | YES |
| Any Loose-Fitting Facepiece | App. D | YES | YES | NO | YES | YES |

1 Air-Purifying Respirators must be NIOSH-Approved, as indicated by the NIOSH logo, and applicable respirator manufacturer’s NIOSH Approval Number.

Training

App. D OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard, Appendix D

Training

Specific Specific respirator/hands-on review-training, conducted annually.

Medical Medical pre-qualification review conducted annually, typically includes employee completion of the OSHA Respiratory Protection Questionaire, spirometry, and may include a physical exam conducted by Penn State Occupational Medicine (OM), or OM-approved 3rd party regional clinic-provider.

Respirator Fit

Test Respirator fit-test using actual tight-fitting respirator type/size to be used, conducted annually.

Other Check For powered air-purifying respirators (PAPR’s), the sealed connections may be challenged via introduction of irritant smoke (or other test agent) at cartridge inlet, according to manufacturer directions, preferable out of doors or in a well-ventilated environment.

**Refer to excerpted OSHA Appendix D at page 2 of 2.**

**The following information has been excerpted from U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety & Health Administration Respiratory Protection Standard**

**Appendix D to Sec. 1910.134 (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 [including filtering facepiece respirators or “dust masks” 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.

[63 FR 1152, Jan. 8, 1998; 63 FR 20098, April 23, 1998]

**Verification of Review – Voluntary Respirator Use Requirements**

I have conducted/completed the above-noted review of voluntary respirator use requirements:

**Respirator Mfr/Model/Sizes**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Voluntary Respirator User Name/ Signature Date

College/Department or Safety Liaison Name/ Signature Date