

Respiratory Protection Overview

Refer to sign-in sheet for attendees (note: a separate meeting should be held with all absent employees).

1. Overview:

Feasible engineering controls and administrative controls are required by employers to reduce employee's exposures to airborne hazardous substances below applicable exposure limits. When engineering controls such as dust collection and point of use ventilation and/or administrative controls are not practical or do not reduce exposures below applicable exposure limits, respiratory protection may be used.

2. Summary of Respiratory Protection Requirements

It is important to understand that there are many types and manufacturers of respirators. Respirators and their components are not interchangeable and depending on the specific respirator may protect you from differing contaminants.

- A **summary** of some of the employer respiratory protection program requirements include:
 - Performance of industrial hygiene assessments to document employee exposures. This data is used to determine if respiratory protection may be required.
 - Developing and maintaining a detailed written respiratory protection program which includes but is not limited to employee medical qualification/approval for using a respirator, respirator fit testing, respirator cartridge change schedule determination, training and provisions for voluntary usage of filtering face piece dust masks.
 - Providing appropriate respirators for employees.
 - Training employees on the site's respiratory protection requirements.
 - Annually evaluating the effectiveness of the site's respiratory protection program.
- A **summary** of some of the employee requirements for use of respirators include:
 - Prior to using a respirator ensure they are medically qualified.
 - Ensure the respirator selected will protect you from the intended contaminants.
 - Use only the respirator type that they have been medically qualified for and passed a fit test.
 - Properly maintain and store respiratory protection.
 - Know, understand and follow all requirements of the site's written respiratory protection program and the associated training.
 - Report any changes in medical conditions that might affect the safe use of a respirator.

Note: Your employer's written respiratory protection program will provide additional information and details.

3. Discussion:

- Identify engineering control devices in your shop. Are they sufficient?
- What jobs do you do that require wearing a respirator?

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4. RECAP/REVIEW:

- Discuss the specific requirements of the site's written respirator protection program.
- When should you change the filters in your respirator?

5. Reminder:

- Safety is the responsibility of both management and employees!

Next Safety Meeting is scheduled for _____ and the topic will be _____.

Take Exam / Review Results

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