

CSUCI Respiratory Protection Program

1.0 Policy

It is the policy of California State University Channel Islands to provide employees and visitors with a safe and healthful environment. The primary objective of this program is to prevent exposure to hazardous atmospheres. This will be accomplished, as far as is feasible, by elimination of those hazards or exposures through engineering and work practice controls. When control measures are not feasible or inadequate, respiratory protective devices may be required to achieve this goal. When employees are required to use respiratory protective devices they will do so in accordance with OSHA standards and other regulatory guidelines. To ensure regulatory compliance and safety, any employee using a respiratory protective device shall comply with the provisions of this Respiratory Protection Program.

2.0 Purpose/Scope

2.1 Purpose

To establish clear and consistent procedures for the use of respiratory protective devices.

2.2 Scope

The requirements of this policy apply to university employees who use respiratory protective devices.

3.0 Definitions

Contaminant: A harmful, irritating, or nuisance material that is foreign to the normal atmosphere.

Immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH): Any atmosphere that poses an immediate hazard to life or produces immediate irreversible debilitating effects on health.

Oxygen deficient atmosphere: An atmosphere which contains less than 19.5% oxygen.

Respirator: A device designed to protect the wearer from the inhalation of harmful atmospheres.

Sanitation: The removal of dirt and the inhibiting of the action of agents that cause infection or disease.

4.0 References

4.1 California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 5144.

4.2 Code of Federal Regulations, Title 29, Section 1910.134.

4.3 American National Standard Institute Z88.2 1980.

5.0 Administration Responsibilities

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5.1 Human Resource Services

1. Confidential medical records will be maintained in the office of Human Resources.

5.2 Respiratory Program Administrator

1. Establish and update the written Respiratory Protection Program.
2. Provide consultation.
3. Conduct hazard assessments.
4. Assist in developing methods for reducing or controlling airborne contaminants.
5. Recommend respiratory protective devices.
6. Conduct respiratory fit testing and training.
7. Maintain records of fit testing, training and documentation of medical authorizations.

5.3 Supervisors/Managers

1. Responsible for contacting the respiratory program administrator when an atmospheric hazard is first suspected. This will ensure timely hazard assessment and proper respirator selection
2. Responsible for ensuring that all respirator users have received medical approval, training, and fit testing as described in this program prior to the use of respiratory protective equipment.
3. Ensure that appropriate respiratory protective equipment is provided to employees and enforce the use of such devices when required.
4. Conduct periodic inspections of respirators to ensure that devices are kept in good condition and maintained in a sanitary manner.

5.4 Employees

1. Employees are responsible for wearing respiratory protective equipment when in hazardous atmospheres.
2. Respirators shall be inspected prior to every use to ensure proper working condition.
3. Only the respirator for which the individual has been fitted shall be worn.
4. Malfunctioning respirators shall be reported immediately to supervisory personnel for repair or replacement.

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6.0 Selection & Issuance

6.1 Selection

1. Respirators selected must be approved by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) and the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). An approved NIOSH and MSHA respirator shall contain the following:
 - a. An identification number.
 - b. A label identifying the type of hazard it protects against and additional information indicating limitations and component parts.
2. Respiratory selection shall be done by the respiratory program administrator.
3. Respirator selection shall require consideration of the following:
 - a. The nature of the hazard.
 - b. The characteristics of the hazardous operation or process.
 - c. The location of the hazardous area with respect to an area having safe respirable air.
 - d. The period of time for which respiratory protection may be provided.
 - e. The physical characteristics, functional capabilities, and limitations of various types of respirators.

6.2 Issuance

1. Employee must first receive written medical authorization to use a respiratory device. A copy of this authorization must be given to the respiratory program administrator.
2. Respirator fit testing will be conducted by the respiratory program administrator.
3. Respirators are issued by Physical Plant Management after the employee has passed the respirator fit test. PPM must be given the completed fit test form before any respiratory equipment will be issued.

7.0 Surveillance and Evaluations

7.1 Hazard Assessment

1. The respiratory program administrator shall be responsible for hazard assessment in any situation where respiratory hazards are suspected.

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Respirators will be selected on the basis of the hazard(s) to which the employee may be exposed.

2. Proper hazard assessment requires knowledge of the job being performed, end-products and by-products. Hazard assessment also requires specific knowledge including chemical contaminant physical properties, toxicity, airborne concentration and physiological effects in the body, in addition to the potential for oxygen deficiency.

8.0 Atmosphere Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (IDLH)

IDLH conditions require a minimum of two individuals with approved respiratory equipment and a method for maintaining communication. A third party must stand by in a safe area with appropriate rescue equipment. Before anyone enters an IDLH environment, the respiratory program administrator must be notified.

9.0 Medical Surveillance

9.1 Medical Evaluation

1. Due to physiological stresses imposed through the use of respirators, users are required to have a medical evaluation prior to the issuance of a respirator.
2. A medical evaluation shall determine if an individual is physically able to perform the work and use the equipment.
3. Written approval from the medical evaluator shall be given to the respiratory program administrator prior to fit testing.
4. Confidential medical records shall be given to Human Resources.

9.2 Visual Impairment

1. Contact Lenses

- a. Contact lenses shall not be permitted while wearing a respirator equipped with a full-facepiece, helmet, hood, or suit.

2. Prescription Glasses

- a. Prescription eye glasses with temple bars shall not be used while wearing a full-facepiece respirator.
- b. As a temporary measure glasses with short temple bars may be taped to the respirator wearer's head.
- c. Special corrective lenses which are made to be mounted inside a full facepiece respirator shall be used by a person who needs corrective lenses.

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9.3 Facial Preventives

1. Facial Hair

- a. Facial hair prevents a proper face-to-facepiece seal. A respirator equipped with a facepiece shall not be worn if facial hair comes between the sealing periphery of the facepiece or if the facial hair interferes with the valve function. ANSI 3.5.8 Z88.2-1980

10.0 Training

All university employees who participate in the Respiratory Protection Program shall receive annual training in the requirements of this program. Training shall include the following elements:

1. The effects of atmospheric contaminants on the individuals health.
2. The limitations and capabilities of the respiratory equipment.
3. The selection, fitting, and proper use and care of their respiratory protective equipment.
4. The purpose of and procedures for respirator fit testing.

11.0 Maintenance

11.1 Sanitation

Respirators will be periodically washed with mild soap in warm water or in a sanitary solution recommended by the manufacturer. After washing, they will be rinsed in clean water, drained and allowed to air dry in a clean place.

11.2 Inspection

All respirators shall be inspected routinely before and after each use.

11.3 Storage

Respirators can be permanently damaged if they are not stored properly. They will be stored in a location separate from the work environment, away from sunlight, dust, moisture, extreme temperatures and damaging chemicals.

11.4 Repairs

Repairs or replacement of parts shall be done only by experienced persons. All damaged or faulty components are to be repaired using parts from the same brand of respirator.

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12.0 Record Keeping

12.1 Exposure Measurements

1. Documentation of employee's atmospheric contaminants exposure shall be maintained by the respiratory program administrator.

12.2 Respiratory Fit Testing

1. The respiratory program administrator shall maintain documentation of employee's respiratory fit testing.
2. The Fit Test Record shall include the following:
 - a. Name and job classification of employee.
 - b. Examiner's name and date of respiratory fit testing.
 - c. Employee most recent hazardous assessment.
 - d. The NIOSH/MSHA approval number.

12.3 Record Retention

1. The respiratory program administrator shall maintain employee exposure monitoring records for 30 years.
2. The respiratory program administrator shall maintain respiratory fit testing results for duration of employee's employment.
3. Employee medical records shall be maintained with Human Resources for the duration of the employment plus 30 years.

12.4 Access to Records

1. All records shall be provided to employees, former employees, and representatives of employees.