

Mandatory Use of Respirator Guidelines (OSHA)

N95 or Other Tight-Fitting Respirators

Purpose

The purpose of respiratory protection is to protect the cast/crew from potential inhalation hazards. Select crew members that have been determined to have potential elevated hazardous concentration of contaminants in the work environment must be given proper respiratory protection that may include use of an N95 or another tight-fitting respirator until adequate controls are implemented. There are times when production management mandates use of these certified respirators for use on a Production. Production management will provide certified respirators to these cast/crew members for protection at no cost. Under these situations, production management will include the individual in a Comprehensive OSHA Respiratory Protection Program.

NIOSH-Certified-respirators are commonly used for toxic hazards including molds, welding fumes, lead, asbestos or other hazards. This procedure outlines the requirements a Production must follow to include these individuals in a Comprehensive Respiratory Protection Program. Other applications may vary for other hazardous operations.

What is a NIOSH Certified Respirator?

An N95 filtering face piece or other filter type tight-fitting respirator is an air-purifying type respirator certified by NIOSH (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services) to intercept and filter out particulate aerosols greater than 0.3 microns in diameter including any microbial organisms such as bacteria, viruses i.e., COVID-19 and variants that may be suspended in the air. In addition, there are other HEPA filtering devices and respirator types that are used for other potential contaminants such as wood dust, molds, asbestos, among others.

Production shall only supply NIOSH Certified respirators. A label stating NIOSH certification should appear on the respirator or respirator packaging. Many other types of tight-fitting respirators with varying cartridges may be used for other hazardous substances. (i.e., welding fumes, painting vapors, wood dust etc.) Consult your production safety representative and CIH to assist with hazard assessments of your work areas to provide respiratory or other control recommendations.

[Understanding the Difference, Surgical Mask, N95 Respirator \(cdc.gov\)](#)

[General Respiratory Protection Guidance for Employers and Workers | OSHA.gov | Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#)

[Respiratory Protection](#) (Cal OSHA)

Requirements

Medical, Fit Testing and Training are required before use of Certified-N95 or any mandatory use of a tight-fitting certified respirator.

OSHA requires employees be placed in a Respiratory Protection Program when respirator use is deemed mandatory since use of this level of respiratory protection can put an additional stress on the heart and lungs. As part of this program, the employee will undergo:

Step 1 – Medical Surveillance: Individual will be scheduled with an approved vendor to go through a proper OSHA protocol for Medical Approval. They will obtain a Physical and medical history with a Licensed Medical professional.

Step 2 – Respirator Fit Testing: This process takes 10-15 minutes and will determine the proper type, size, and fit of respirator for your application. A qualified professional will conduct this testing. This will typically be completed with the same medical clinic on the same day as your medical approval but may vary by location.

Step 3 – Training: After passing Steps 1 & 2, cast/crew members will go through a proper OSHA training that will cover all aspects of how to use, store, maintain and the limitations of respiratory protection.

Production must ensure that all these criteria are met by an individual **prior to providing** a respirator. Please consult your Production POC, UPM and/or Production Safety and/ or Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) for any assistance.

What documentation is required to be maintained by Production?

Production will need to obtain copies, maintain the following records, and make it available to local OSHA or Production Safety upon request or if being audited:

1. Medical Approval for Respirator Use. - Provided by clinic or Licensed Professional from approved Vendor List
2. Copy of the Fit Test Record (Provided by clinic and/or Licensed Professional from approved vendor list)
3. Copy of your type, style, and size of respirator you have been certified and fit tested on.
4. Copy of successful completion of training.

The above documentation should be maintained by the Production POC, and copies given to Production Safety Managers. Consult your Production Safety representative or CIH for further guidance and assistance with approved medical providers.

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