

# SAFETY MEETING

Company Name: Superior Waterproofing

Tool Talk #13

Date: 4/1/2022

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## **RESPIRATORY PROTECTION – Frequently Asked Questions**

*Q: What is a respirator?*

A: A respirator is a protective facepiece, hood or helmet designed to protect the wearer against a variety of harmful airborne agents.

*Q: When is the use of respirators required?*

A: OSHA's respirator standard, 29 CFR 1910.134, requires the use of respirators to protect employees from breathing contaminated and/or oxygen-deficient air when effective engineering controls are not feasible, or while they are being instituted.

*Q: Can any respirator be used?*

A: No, respirators shall be selected on the basis of hazards exposed to (i.e., particulates, vapors, oxygen-deficiency, or combination). Also, OSHA requires the use of certified respirators.

*Q: How can a certified respirator be recognized?*

A: Under the 40 CFR Part 84 approval system, manufacturers are required to mark cartridges and filters with "NIOSH", the manufacturer's name and part number, and an abbreviation to indicate the cartridge or filter type. All cartridges and filters are supplied with a matrix approval label showing the "NIOSH" approved configurations, "TC number", parts, cautions & limitations.

### **SCOPE & APPLICATIONS – Who has to use respirators?**

The OSHA respirator standard, 29 CFR 1910.134 applies to all occupational airborne exposures to contaminated air where the employee is:

1. Exposed to a hazardous level of an airborne contaminant; or
2. Required by the employer to wear respirators; or
3. Permitted to wear respirators.

Four major duties are imposed by each of these standards. These duties are:

- Use engineering controls where feasible to control the hazard;
- Provide an appropriate respirator;
- Ensure the use of an appropriate respirator; and
- Institute a respiratory protections program that complies with the rest of the standard.

### **MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS**

Employees need to be medically cleared to wear respirators prior to use. All respirators place a burden on the employee. Some respirators restrict breathing, can cause claustrophobia and self-contained respirators are heavy. Each of these conditions may adversely affect the health of some employees. A physician or other licensed health care professional operating within the scope of his/her practice needs to medically evaluate employees to determine under what conditions they can safely wear respirators.

### **MAINTENANCE AND CARE OF RESPIRATORS**

**User must administer a regular maintenance and cleaning schedule. Respirators should be inspected for basic function and seal checked prior to each use.** Clean as often as necessary for sanitary purposes.

### **FIT TEST**

All respirators that rely on a mask-to-face seal need to be annually checked with either qualitative or quantitative methods to determine whether the mask provides an acceptable fit. The qualitative fit test in the negative pressure mode relies on a subjective sensation (taste, irritation, smell).

**QUESTIONS:** 1. Daily requirements? Fit Test    Seal Check    Medical Clearance    Inspection  
2. Can there be anything between the skin of the face and the respirator's sealing edge? Yes    No

Meeting Attended By \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_