PennState Physical Plant

Program Highlights

RESPIRATORY PROTECTION PROGRAM SEPTEMBER 2019

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Penn State Respiratory Protection Program is to ensure that all employees are protected from exposure to airborne contaminants. This program applies to all OPP Employees who wear respirators.

TRAINING

All respirator users must enroll in, and successfully complete the on-line training program through the LRN.

All respirator users must also complete a hands-on training specific to the respirator they will be using for their work assignment.

INSPECTIONS

Inspection Procedures

- Respirators are to be inspected before and after each use:
  - Facepiece: check for cracks, tears, holes, facemask distortion, cracked or loose lenses/faceshield, etc.
  - Headstraps: breaks, tears or bent or broken buckles.
  - Valves: residue or dirt, cracks or tears, valves stuck or folded open.
  - Filters/Cartridges: NIOSH approval designation/label clearly visible, gaskets, cracks or dents in housing, proper cartridge for hazard.
  - PAPRs: hose condition, gaskets, motor function, battery charge and condition.
  - Air Supply Systems: breathing air quality/grade, condition of supply hoses, hose connections, settings on regulators and valves.

KEY ELEMENTS

Respirator types and usage requirements

- Required respirator use – tight fitting, loose-fitting and filtering facepiece (dust mask)
  - Any respirator user who is required to wear a tight-fitting respirator are subject to the medical evaluation, respirator fit-testing, training, and cleaning, maintenance and storage requirements.

Committed to Safety Excellence

- Voluntary respirator use – filtering facepiece or dust mask respirators
    - Any respirator user who is approved for voluntary use of a filtering facepiece for comfort or nuisance level protection, is NOT subject to the medical evaluation and fit-testing requirements of this program; They must receive Appendix D of OSHA's respiratory protection standard.

Medical Evaluation

- Respirator users who are required to wear tight fitting respirators must complete an annual medical evaluation. The evaluation will be coordinated through Penn State Occupational Medicine

Respirator Fit Testing

- Fit testing is required for respirator users required to wear tight fitting air purifying respirators, powered air respirators, supplied air respirators, self-contained breathing apparatus.
- Employees shall be fit tested:
    - Prior to required use
    - Annually thereafter
    - If any changes in the employee's physical condition occur that may affect the fit
    - Must be the make, model and size of the respirator they will wear on the job

Respirator Storage and Cleaning

- Respirators must be stored in a clean, dry area and in accordance with manufacturers recommendations.
- Each user will clean and inspect their respirator and store in a clean plastic bag.
- To clean the respirator
    - Disassemble, removing filter, canister or cartridge
    - Wash the face piece and associated parts (mild detergent only)
    - Rinse in warm water
    - Allow to dry and reassemble.
    - Replace any defective parts

Filter Selection / Change out

- Multipurpose, GMP 100 filter cartridges are provided at OPP Stores
- Filter cartridges shall be changed:
    - After every eight hours of use,
    - Or if you notice an increase in breathing resistance,
    - Or if you notice any odor penetration,

REFERENCE

Respiratory Protection Program