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Information for N, R, and P Particulate Respirator Categories

N, R, and P are NIOSH certification categories that apply to negative pressure air-purifying respirators that protect against respiratory particulates. They do not apply to powered air-purifying respirators (PAPRs). The particulate respirator will have an N, R, or P designation along with an efficiency rating such as 95, 99, or 100. Some examples include N95 and N100 disposable facepiece respirators and a P100 cartridge. Please make note of these designations as you make your selection for the respirator suitable for your job task.

N, R, P Designations

Use	When
N	No oil is present in the air.
R	Oil is present, but only for a single shift or 8 hours of continuous or intermittent use. **Note:** Re-use beyond a single shift or 8 hours is **not** recommended.
P	Oil is present, but follow the manufacturer's time use limitations if you want to re-use these.

100, 99, and 95 Efficiency Ratings*

If the efficiency level is:	This means
100	The filter is expected to trap 99.97 particles out of every 100. It is as efficient as a High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filter.
99	The filter is expected to trap 99 particles out of every 100.
95	The filter will trap 95 particles out of every 100.

*The table shows how efficient the respirator's filter capacity is expected to be against particles that are at least 0.3 micrometers. The higher the number, the higher the efficiency expected.