



Department of Environmental Health and Safety

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Informed Consent for Voluntary Respirator Users

By signing this form, I certify that I received, read, and understand the **Information for Voluntary Users of Disposable Respirators (29 CFR 1910.134 Appendix D)**. I understand that use of a respirator may place an additional burden on the pulmonary system, and that I should talk with my primary care physician if I currently have breathing difficulties and/or any concerns related to voluntary use of respirators. I understand that I must follow all manufacturers' instructions for the proper use of the respirator, and that I can contact EHS (1-3600) at any time if I have questions or concerns about the use of this respirator.

Name (print) _____

Signature _____

Date _____

[Subject, if needed]

[Date]

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Information for Employees Using Respirators When Not Required Under the Standard: OSHA 1910.134 Appendix D

Respirators are an effective method of protection against designated hazards when properly selected and worn. Respirator use is encouraged, even when concentrations are below the exposure limit, to provide an additional level of comfort and protection for workers. However, if a respirator is used improperly or not kept clean, the respirator itself can become a hazard to the worker. Sometimes, workers may wear respirators to avoid exposures to hazards, even if the amount of hazardous substance does not exceed the limits set by OSHA standards. If your employer provides respirators for your voluntary use, or if you provide your own respirator, you need to take certain precautions to be sure that the respirator itself does not present a hazard.

You should do the following:

1. Read and heed all instructions provided by the manufacturer on use, maintenance, cleaning and care, and warnings regarding the limitations of the respirator.
2. Choose respirators certified for use to protect against the contaminant of concern. NIOSH, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, certifies respirators. A label or statement of certification should appear on the respirator or respirator packaging. It will tell you what the respirator is designed for and how much it will protect you.
3. Do not wear your respirator into atmospheres containing contaminants for which your respirator is not designed to protect against. For example, a respirator designed to filter dust particles will not protect you against gases, vapors, or very small solid particles of fumes or smoke.
4. Keep track of your respirator so that you do not mistakenly use someone else's respirator.

Virginia Tech EHS recommends the fit test of respirators for ALL users. Call extension 1-3998 for your fit test.

If you have any questions regarding the information discussed in this document, please contact Environmental Health & Safety Services at (540) 231-3600.