

Respirator Program

GENERAL DISCUSSION

OSHA requires respirators and a written respirator program whenever air contaminants are above the Permissible Exposure Level (PEL). A respirator program should include the following elements:

- Physician's examination to determine the worker's capability of wearing a respirator
- Program implementation and annual re-evaluations
- Written standard operating procedures for the selection and use of respirators
- Fit testing
- Purchase of respirators and/or filters for each atmospheric need
- Purchase of cleaning materials, filters, pre-filters, canisters and spare parts
- Documented employee training on respirator use and limitations
- Equipment inspection, cleaning, maintenance and storage procedures and records
- Work-area monitoring to establish degree of exposure and type of respirator needed
- Maintenance of air quality for supplied-air devices, compressors and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) devices.

Remember, the first step in determining if a respirator program is necessary is to evaluate the level of contaminants in the air and/or the work processes involved, such as spray painting, abrasive blasting, etc. If contaminant levels exceed the PEL, first evaluate and implement suitable engineering controls that will lower the level of contaminants below the PEL, if feasible. Then, careful selection of respiratory protection and fit testing is required.

A competent person must continue to monitor the worksite, and evaluate the need for a respirator program whenever exposures change. New exposures could be due to different chemical uses, changes in work methods and processes, or whenever chemical spills occur. Additional employee training may also be necessary at this time.

Respirators are an important safety and health protection, when used properly. Learn to select, use and maintain them--and keep the air you breath free of harmful contaminants.

GENERAL SAFETY REVIEW

This is a time to review all safety concerns, not just today's topic. Keep your notes on this page before, during and after the safety meeting.

Are you aware of any safety hazards from any other crews? Point out any hazards other crews are creating that this crew should know about. Tell the crew what you intend to do about those hazards.

Do we have any other safety business? Discuss any past issues or problems. Report any progress of investigations and action taken.

Have there been any accidents near misses or complaints? Discuss any accidents, near misses, and complaints that have happened since the last safety meeting. Also recognize the safety contributions made by members of the crew.

Please remember, we want to hear from you about any health and safety issues that come up. If we don't know about problems, we can't take action to fix them.

ENDING THE MEETING

Circulate Sign-Off Form.

Assign one or more crew member(s) to help with next safety meeting.

Refer action items for follow-up.

Do you have any Safety Recommendations?

Do you have any Job Specific Topics you would like us to discuss?

Have you reviewed the M.S.D.S Sheet for this safety topic? Yes____ No____
N/A____

Comments
