



## FILTERING FACE PIECE APPROVAL FORM For Comfort Use Only

Supervisor:

This form is to be used for approval for use of a filtering facepiece respirator (dust mask) for **COMFORT ONLY**, not for protection against hazardous dusts, gases or vapors. The employee should be able to remove the respirator at any time without concern about adverse health effects from the material in use. Since this respirator is not used for protection against hazardous materials, medical approval is not needed. Employees who have a history of heart or respiratory problems, or feel they may have such problems, should not use any respirator without physician's approval.

Department: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Respirator used for: \_\_\_\_\_

**This application describes use of a filtering facepiece for comfort purposes only. If you feel there is need for respiratory protection against hazardous materials in your work area, contact EHS.** Workers required to wear respirators as part of their jobs must participate in a full-blown respiratory protection program. And that can require some extensive measures be taken, such as medical examinations and respirator fit-testing.

However, an employee wishing to wear a paper dust mask or similar filtering-face piece respirator for protection against nuisance levels of dust may choose to do so without having to go through the rigors of the entire program. Instead, OSHA only requires their employer provide them with the information contained in Appendix D of the OSHA standard for respiratory protection.

Filtering facepieces are **not** to be worn for protection against hazardous dusts, gases or vapors. Your supervisor is responsible for furnishing and overseeing the use of respirators. Filtering facepieces are for personal use, are not to be shared, and must be stored in a clean location such as a ziplock bag. It is recommended that respirators be discarded after eight hours of use or less. Manufacturer's instructions on use, maintenance and cleaning should be followed. The respirator selected must be NIOSH approved for particulates (dusts). A N-95 filtering facepiece is recommended as a minimum. A facepiece with an exhaust valve increases wearer comfort.

Supervisor Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last, First

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

Please send a copy of this form to Environmental Health and Safety.



## Employee Information

### Dust Mask Use - Comfort Use Only

Respirators are an effective method of protection against designated hazards when properly selected and worn. Respirator use is encouraged, even when exposures 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 be sure 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 respirator's limitations.
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.
5. Click here to watch training video - Training  
[http://solutions.3m.com/wps/portal/3M/en\\_US/3M-PPE-Safety-Solutions/Personal-Protective-Equipment/safety-management/personal-protective-equipment-videos/player/?bctid=2162764177001](http://solutions.3m.com/wps/portal/3M/en_US/3M-PPE-Safety-Solutions/Personal-Protective-Equipment/safety-management/personal-protective-equipment-videos/player/?bctid=2162764177001)

*Information obtained from 1910.134 Appendix D*

I have read, watched the video and understand the information provided above.

**Employee Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Last, First

**Employee CWID:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Employee:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach the original to the department copy of the Filtering Face Piece Approval Form