

When a respirator is required by the labeling, the Handler Employer shall provide and maintain records of the following procedures for him or her, **before** the handler performs any activity requiring the respirator:

- ❖ Medical evaluation
- ❖ Fit test
- ❖ Respirator training
- ❖ Maintain records of the above for 3 years

PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENTS

HAZARDS TO HUMANS AND DOMESTIC ANIMALS

May be fatal if swallowed. Fatal if inhaled. Do not breathe spray mist. Wear a dust mist NIOSH-approved respirator with any N, R, P, or HE filter. Causes substantial but temporary eye injury. Wear protective eyewear (face shield required when mixing/loading). Harmful if absorbed through skin. Do not get in eyes, on skin, or on clothing. Avoid contact with skin, eyes or clothing. Wash thoroughly with soap and water after



This is not a complete pesticide product label.

Replace particulate filters or filtering facepiece respirators when any following condition is met:

- ❖ When breathing becomes difficult,
 - ❖ When the filter is damaged or torn,
 - ❖ When the respirator label or pesticide label requires it,
 - ❖ After 8 total hours of use, in the absence of any other instructions or indications of service life.
- 170.507 (d)(6)

Replace vapor-removing cartridges/canisters when any following condition is met:

- ❖ When odor/taste/irritation is noticed,
 - ❖ When the respirator label or pesticide label requires it
 - ❖ (whichever is shorter),
 - ❖ When breathing, resistance becomes excessive,
 - ❖ After 8 total hours of use, in the absence of any other instructions or indications of service life.
- 170.507 (d)(7)

Additionally, employers are responsible for maintaining the respirator filters, cartridges or canisters, in accordance with the manufacturers recommendations.

Medical Evaluation

If a pesticides label requires a respirator, then a medical evaluation must be provided to the employee prior to fit testing and using the respirator for the first time to ensure the employee's physical ability to safely wear the respirator. A Medical Evaluation is also required if the employee reports symptoms related to ability to use a respirator; physician or another licensed health care professional (PLHCP), program administrator or supervisor determine that a medical re-evaluation is necessary; workplace conditions (PPE, temp, work effort) have changed to increase burden; or results of the medical exam reveal that additional medical evaluations are needed. This medical evaluation must meet the following:

- ❖ Employer must pay for medical evaluation costs
- ❖ Employer must identify a qualified PLHCP
 - PLHCPs in area: see if respirator medical evaluation is within scope of their license
 - Check with state licensing board
 - Online services (respirator medical evaluation online service)
- ❖ Employer must provide a medical questionnaire that at a minimal meets the OSHA Respirator Medical Evaluation Questionnaire standard
- ❖ Employer may not review employee's responses to the questionnaire
- ❖ Employer must inform employees that a PLHCP is available to discuss the questionnaire and allow employees to discuss the results with the PLHCP
- ❖ Employer must ensure the evaluation be administered confidentially during employee's normal working hours (or convenient time/place) and be provided in a manner employee understands
- ❖ Employer must provide (pay for) follow-up exams for employees who answer YES to any question out of 1-8 or 10-15 in Part A Section 2 of the OSHA Respirator Medical Evaluation Questionnaire
- ❖ Employer must provide any tests, consultations or diagnostic procedures the PLHCP determines are needed to assess employee's ability to use a respirator.
- ❖ Employer is only entitled to the following information from the PLHCP:
 - Determination of whether or not the employee is medically able to use a respirator
 - Any limitations on respirator use related to the medical conditions of the employee or the workplace conditions
 - Need, if any, for follow-up medical evaluations
 - Statement that PLCHP provided employee with written recommendation
- ❖ This recommendation is part of the record keeping requirement to be kept for 5 years.

Fit Testing

Once a PLHCP has cleared an employee medically and prior to using a respirator for the first time, the employer must provide fit testing. Fit testing must occur **at least every 12 months** and must be specific to the make, model, style, and size of respirator that a handler will be using.

Additionally, fit testing must reoccur whenever an employee has a change in their physical condition that could affect the fit of your respirator, such as: large weight gain or loss; major dental work (such as new dentures); facial surgery that may have changed the shape of your face; or significant scarring in the area of the seal.

If a worker needs to wear prescription glasses or personal protective equipment, such as safety goggles or earmuffs, while performing a job, then these items must be worn during the fit test to be sure they don't interfere with the respirator's fit.



There are two types of fit testing; qualitative and quantitative. Qualitative fit testing is normally used for half-mask respirators, those that just cover your mouth and nose. Half-mask respirators can be filtering facepiece respirators, often called "N95s", as well as elastomeric respirators. Quantitative fit testing can be used for any type of tight-fitting respirator.

- ❖ Qualitative fit testing is a pass/fail test method that uses your sense of taste or smell, or your reaction to an irritant in order to detect leakage into the respirator facepiece. Qualitative fit testing does not measure the actual amount of leakage. Whether the respirator passes or fails the test is based simply on you detecting leakage of the test substance into your facepiece. There are four qualitative fit test methods accepted by OSHA:
 - Isoamyl acetate, which smells like bananas;
 - Saccharin, which leaves a sweet taste in your mouth;
 - Bitrex, which leaves a bitter taste in your mouth; and
 - Irritant smoke, which can cause coughing.
- ❖ Quantitative fit testing uses a machine to measure the actual amount of leakage into the facepiece and does not rely upon your sense of taste, smell, or irritation in order to detect leakage. The respirators used during this type of fit testing will have a probe attached to the facepiece that will be connected to the machine by a hose. There are three quantitative fit test methods accepted by OSHA:
 - Generated aerosol;
 - Ambient aerosol; and
 - Controlled Negative Pressure.

Not everyone can get a good fit with one specific respirator. If a respirator fails the fit test, then another make, model, style, or size must be tried until one is found that fits the employee properly. Therefore, an employer must

provide a reasonable selection of sizes and models to choose from. After passing a fit test with a respirator, an employee must use the exact same make, model, style, and size respirator on the job.

Respirator Training

The employer must provide annual training specific to the type and model of respirator requested by the pesticide product label. This should include details on how to properly wear, store and maintain the respirator.

Helpful Links for Respirator Selection, Medical Evaluations, and Fit Testing resources:

- ❖ For more information about respirator use in your workplace, refer to the OSHA website: https://www.osha.gov/video/respiratory_protection/fittesting_transcript.html
- ❖ OSHA Questionnaire (English): <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3789info.pdf>
- ❖ OSHA Questionnaire (Spanish): https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/respiratoryprotection/medicalevaluation_sp.html