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"For Safety's Sake - Do Something"

SSOE GROUP IS A PROJECT DELIVERY FIRM FOR ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING, AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT.

Breathing Easier - Respiratory Protection

The world of safety compliance should not be confusing. Rules are in place to maintain a safe workplace. This week we are going to look at respiratory protection. The OSHA standard is **1910.134**.



- When feasible engineering or administrative controls are not possible in controlling breathable toxic substances, appropriate respiratory protection must be provided.
- All evaluations, training, and equipment will be provided by the employer at no cost to the employee.
- Those employees wearing respirators cannot have any facial hair that interferes with the seal of the mask.
- Employees wanting to wear a respirator for their own protection, fall under the Voluntary Use and are not required to have the medical evaluation and fit test.

- An evaluation of work conditions must be performed to determine contaminants, anticipated exposure levels, and identify protective measures to prevent exposures to employees.
- All respirators and associated equipment must be approved by NIOSH (National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health).
- All cartridges or canisters for respirators shall have an end of life indicator or the employer must establish a change out schedule based on historical or objective data determined from evaluating the exposures.
- Employees must be trained to inspect, maintain, don, use, and doff the respirator issued to them.
- A respirator medical questionnaire must be completed by the employee and reviewed by a medical provider.
- Employees must also be fit tested to determine the correct size of respirator that is needed.

In order to wear a respirator at SSOE, employees must contact the Safety Department via HelpDesk to request a respirator. The employee will need to provide the following information:

- Location of employee.
- Project name and location.
- Anticipated duration of use.
- Substance to be protecting from.
- Approval of respiratory medical evaluation clearance.
- Be fit tested.
- Receive training on use and care of the respirator.

The Safety Department will provide the correct respirator needed based on the information provided.

Employees must also be clean shaven within 24 hours and with no more than a moustache.

A "dust mask" is a respirator if in an area where a respirator is required or will be needed based on the exposure.