

**Voluntary N95 Respirator Use**

**Appendix D to Sec. 1910.134 (Mandatory) Information for Employees Using Respirators When Not Required Under the Standard**

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 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 respirators 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.  
 [63 FR 1152, Jan. 8, 1998; 63 FR 20098, April 23, 1998]

By signing this document, the supervisor acknowledges they will authorize situational, voluntary use of an N95 respirator and will not authorize use where no respiratory hazard exists.

Supervisor Name (Print)	Supervisor Name (Signature)	Employee Id #	Date
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By signing this document, I am acknowledging that I have read Appendix D to Sec. 1910.134 and that I will adhere to the requirements of Appendix D.

Employee Name (Print)	Employee Signature	Employee Id #	Date
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A signed copy of this form shall be submitted to [Safety@wm.edu](mailto:Safety@wm.edu)