

APPENDIX B

GENERAL GUIDANCE FOR  
PROGRAM EVALUATIONS

In general, the respirator program should be evaluated at least annually, with program adjustments made to reflect the evaluation results. Program function can be separated into administration and operation.

B-1. Program Administration.

a. Is program responsibility vested in one individual who is knowledgeable and can coordinate all aspects of the program?

b. What is the present status of the implementation of engineering controls to alleviate the need of respirators?

c. Are there written procedures/statements covering the various aspects of the respirator program?

- (1) designation of administrator;
- (2) respirator selection;
- (3) purchase of approved equipment
- (4) medical surveillance of respirator users;
- (5) issuance of equipment;
- (6) fitting;
- (7) maintenance, storage, repair;
- (8) inspection; and
- (9) use under special condition.

B-2. Program Operation.

a. Respiratory protective equipment selection.

(1) Are work area conditions and employee exposures properly surveyed?

(2) Are respirators selected on the basis of hazards to which the employee is exposed?

(3) Are selections made by individuals knowledgeable of selection procedures?

(4) Are only approved respirators purchased and used and do they provide adequate protection for the specific hazard and concentration of the contaminant?

(5) Where practical, have respirators been issued to the users for their exclusive use, and are there records covering issuance?

\* Source: "Respiratory Protection - An Employer's Manual", NIOSH PUB 78-193A, Oct 78

b. Medical Evaluations. Has a medical evaluation of the prospective users been made to determine their physical and psychological ability to wear respiratory protective equipment?

c. Respiratory protective equipment fitting.

(1) Are the users given the opportunity to try on several respirators to determine whether the respirator they will subsequently be wearing is the best fitting one?

(2) Is the fit tested at appropriate intervals?

(3) Are those users who require corrective lenses properly fitted?

(4) Are users prohibited from wearing contact lenses when using respirators?

(5) Is the facepiece to face seal tested in a test atmosphere?

d. Maintenance of respiratory protective equipment.

(1) Cleaning and Disinfecting.

(a) Are respirators cleaned and disinfected after each use when different people use the same device, or as frequently as necessary for devices issued to individual users?

(b) Are proper methods of cleaning and disinfecting utilized?

(2) Storage.

(a) Are respirators stored in a manner so as to protect them from dust, sunlight, heat, excessive cold or moisture, or damaging chemicals?

(b) Are respirator stored properly in a storage facility so as to prevent them from becoming deformed?

(c) Is storage in lockers and tool boxes permitted only if the respirator is in a carrying case or carton?

(3) Inspection.

(a) Are respirators inspected before and after each use and during cleaning?

(b) Is respiratory protective equipment designated as "emergency use" inspected at least monthly (in addition to after each use)?

(c) Is a record kept of the inspection of "emergency use" respiratory protective equipment?

(4) Repair.

(a) Are replacement parts used in repair those of the manufacturer of the respirator?

(b) Are repairs made by knowledgeable individuals?

(c) Are repairs of SCBA made only by certified personnel or by a manufacturer's representative?

(5) Special Use Conditions.

(a) Is a procedure developed for respiratory protective equipment usage in atmospheres immediately dangerous to life or health?

(b) Is a procedure developed for equipment usage for entry into confined spaces?

(6) Training.

(a) Are users trained in proper respirator usage?

(b) Are users trained in the basis for selection of respirators?