

## **Respiratory Protection Program – Option 1**

This sample policy statement is provided only as a guide to assist in complying with 29 CFR 1910.134, OSHA's Respiratory Protection Program standard. It is not intended to supersede the requirements detailed in the standards. Review the standard for particular requirements which are applicable to your specific situation. Employers will need to delete or add information relevant to your particular facility in order to develop an effective, comprehensive plan.

This sample covers situations where [no employee is expected or required to use respiratory protection equipment, but who may voluntarily choose to wear a dust mask](#). [Not that this option does require that the employer provide a copy of Appendix D to the employee.](#)

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### **RESPIRATORY PROTECTION PROGRAM Voluntary Use of Dust Masks (Filtering Facepiece Respirator)**

This program is designed to protect employee health. Although we decided that respirators are not required in any operation, we allow dust masks for those employees who wish to use them. NIOSH-approved respirators (i.e., dust masks, designated N, R, P-95, 97 or 100), must be selected for use.

The use of dust mask respirators by employees is strictly voluntary. Employees who want to wear the dust mask must obtain permission. We will ensure that the use of the dust mask does not interfere with the employee's ability to work safely. We will also provide the employee with the information contained in Appendix D of OSHA's Respiratory Protection Standard 29 CFR 1910.134.

Employees are required:

- To be provided with the information contained in Appendix D.
- Replace a dirty respirator when there is breathing resistance.
- Check the respirator (dust masks) before and after each use for holes, deterioration of a metal nose clip or deterioration of straps and replace as necessary.
- Agree not to share the respirator with others.

### **Appendix D to 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.