

Appendix B

Mandatory Workplace Guidance for

THE USE OF FILTERING FACEPIECE RESPIRATORS TO ADDRESS COVID-19

This appendix applies only to employers that require NIOSH-approved filtering facepiece respirators, including N95, P95, R95, and masks, to be used by their workers for protection exclusively against COVID-19. Filtering facepiece respirators are disposable, negative-pressure, air purifying respirators where an integral part of the facepiece or the entire facepiece is made of air contaminant filtering material. This appendix does not apply to other types of respirators, including but not limited to elastomeric tight-fitting respirators, nor does it apply to situations where workers use filtering facepiece respirators for protection against air contaminants other than COVID-19.

Employers whose workers are required to wear filtering facepiece respirators to protect against COVID-19 must develop either a respiratory protection program in accordance with the Respiratory Protection Standard (29 CFR 1910.134); or a COVID-19 filtering facepiece respiratory protection program in accordance with the following requirements:

(A) Written program. The employer's COVID-19 filtering facepiece respiratory protection mini program must be documented in writing and must include the following minimum elements:

1. Procedures for proper use of respirators.
2. Procedures and schedules for storing and inspecting respirators if reuse is authorized, consistent with requirements of Section (E) of this appendix.
3. Procedures to train employees in the proper use of the respirators, including putting them on and removing them, any limitations on their use, how to perform a seal check as described in (D) below, and how to care for the respirator.

(B) Employee training. Employers must ensure that employees wearing filtering facepiece respirators are trained as described in (A)3 above *and* demonstrate the ability to perform a sealcheck as described in (D) below as part of their training.

(C) Fit Tests. The employer must ensure that employees receive appropriate fit tests in accordance with CFR 1910.134(f), unless such fit testing cannot be immediately obtained; if fit testing services or equipment are not immediately available, the employer must arrange for those services as soon as possible and must ensure the employee performs the required sealcheck whenever the employee puts the respirator on.

(D) Filtering facepiece respirator user seal check. Each employee who uses a filtering facepiece respirator must perform a user seal check to ensure that the respirator is properly sealed to the face is achieved each time the respirator is put on. Either the positive or negative pressure checks listed in this appendix or the respirator manufacturer's recommended user seal check method must be used.

1. Instructions for positive pressure user seal check. Once you have properly donned the respirator, place your hands over the facepiece, covering as much surface area as possible. Exhale gently into the facepiece. The face fit is considered satisfactory if a slight positive pressure is being built up inside the facepiece without any evidence of outward leakage of air at the seal. Examples of evidence that it is leaking could be the feeling of air movement on your face along the seal of the facepiece, fogging of your glasses, or a lack of pressure being built up inside the facepiece. If the particulate respirator has an exhalation valve, then performing a positive pressure check may not be possible. In such cases, a negative pressure check must be performed.
2. Instructions for negative pressure user seal check. Negative pressure seal checks are typically conducted on particulate respirators that have exhalation valves. To conduct a negative pressure user seal check, cover the filter surface with your hands as much as possible and then inhale. The facepiece should collapse on your face and you should not feel air passing between your face and the facepiece.

Correcting problems discovered during the seal check. In the case of either type of seal check (positive or negative), if air leaks around the nose, use both hands to readjust the nosepiece by placing your fingertips at the top of the metal nose clip. Slide your fingertips down both sides of the metal strip to more efficiently mold the nose area to the shape of your nose. Readjust the straps along the sides of your head until a proper seal is achieved.

E. Reuse of filtering facepiece respirators. Employers can authorize reuse of filtering facepiece respirators subject to the following conditions:

1. Employees can use a single respirator throughout a single day without restriction, provided that the respirator does not become visibly contaminated or damaged.
2. Employees can reuse filtering facepiece respirators that the particular employee has used previously provided that the following conditions are met:
 - ✓ the respirator has been stored in a breathable paper bag for at least five calendar days;
 - ✓ the employee does a visual check for damage to the respirator's fabric or seal;
 - ✓ the employee successfully completes a sealcheck as described in section (D) on this appendix
 - ✓ the employee uses proper hand hygiene with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol before putting the respirator on;
 - ✓ the respirator has not been worn more than five days total.

Note: The COVID-19 filtering facepiece respiratory protection program described by this appendix is an alternative that may be used only while Oregon OSHA's temporary standard for COVID-19 (OAR 437-001-0044) remains in effect. Nothing in this appendix shall otherwise limit or supersede the requirements of 29 CFR 1910.134 when the use of non-filtering facepiece respirators is required or when the employer requires an employee to use a filtering facepiece respirator protect from other air contaminants instead of or in addition to COVID-19.