

FACT SHEET

Respiratory Protection

A respiratory protection program may be required for situations in which permissible exposure limits (PELs) of airborne contaminants are exceeded, or when a hazard assessment identifies the need for the use of respirators by employees.

The following are required elements of the University of Utah Respiratory Protection Program:

Hazard Assessment:

A hazard assessment, conducted by EHS, is required to determine whether or not respiratory protection is needed.

Written Program:

A written respiratory protection program ensures that employees are properly protected from respiratory hazards. Areas in which respiratory protection is identified as required must download the University of Utah written respiratory protection program and complete the area specific respiratory protection program template. Both the written program and area specific template are available on the EHS website here: University of Utah Respiratory Protection Program

Medical Evaluation and Clearance:

Employees required to wear a respirator must obtain a medical clearance prior to use. A medical clearance is obtained by submitting the required medical questionnaire to the Occupational Medicine Clinic. The clinic will review the questionnaire and either issue the medical clearance or request additional follow activities such as additional medical testing. These services are provided at University expense. The medical clearance process ensures that wearing a respirator will not contribute to, or create, a health issue for the affected employees.

Fit-Testing:

Once medical clearance has been issued, the employee must complete a fit test using their own respirator. A fit test ensures that the respirator fits properly and will provide the desired protection. EHS provides fit-testing services to University entities. To schedule a fit test contact EHS at 801-581-6590

Training:

All affected employees must be trained in the contents of the written respiratory protection program and area specific program, as well as specific training in the proper use, maintenance, and storage of their respirator.

Equipment:

Required equipment necessary for respiratory protection will be provided to affected employees at University expense. Respirators not provided by the University are not allowed for use on campus.

If you have any questions concerning Respiratory Protection, ask your direct supervisor or contact EHS at 801-581-6590.



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