



EH&S Policy and Procedure

Topic: **RESPIRATORY PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

Approved by: _____
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Distribution: Facilities Management, Telecommunications, Housing Maintenance,
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Policy Statement

It is the policy of the University of Colorado at Boulder, that any employee who is assigned a respirator as part of their job duties, must obtain supervisory and medical approvals, and be properly trained and fit-tested. Persons who are involved in the use or issuance of respirators, are responsible for following the Respiratory Protective Equipment program procedures detailed below.

Background and Purpose

OSHA 1910.134 requires that workers whose job duties require them to wear respiratory protection, be medically approved for respirator use, be properly trained in the selection, use and maintenance of their respirator, and be properly fit-tested. UCB has a formal respiratory protection program in place that meets the intent of the regulations, promotes protection of employees' health, and helps assure that the activities of affected persons are compliant and safe.

The use of respiratory protection is appropriate only when hazards cannot be reduced or eliminated by procedural or mechanical methods such as substitution of less hazardous materials, ventilation controls, isolation or containment. Respirator use may be encouraged, however, even when hazardous contaminant levels are below permissible exposure limits, to provide an additional level of comfort and protection, especially where conditions in a work environment might change unexpectedly with the potential for temporarily elevated air contaminant levels. In such cases, respirators must still be issued in accordance with this Policy.

Procedural Overview

The process and responsibilities for issuance and use of respirators is as follows:

RESPONSIBLE PARTY

Employee / Supervisor
respiratory
and the
atmospheric contaminants.

ACTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Consult with EH&S to determine the need for
protection, based upon specific work activities
potential for exposure to hazardous



Supervisor	Authorize employee to obtain and use respiratory protective equipment.
Employee	Arrange a medical evaluation from a physician at Arbor Medical Center.
Physician	Issue written approval for the use of various types of respirators, limitations on respirator use, and restrictions based upon workplace activities.
EH&S	Assist individuals in selecting proper respirators and components.
Employee	Procure a suitable respirator (and appropriate cartridges).
Employee	Contact EH&S to schedule formal respirator training and fit-testing. Some departments, such as Facilities Management, arrange this via a Training Coordinator. Employees may also need to obtain other occupational safety training as required by their Department, e.g., Asbestos Awareness Training and Confined Space Entry Training.
Asbestos Workers	Follow additional worker protection regulations and obtain additional specialized training through the EH&S Asbestos Management Program.
EH&S	Perform and document respirator training and fit-testing.
Employee	Maintain certification by arranging <u>annual</u> medical re-evaluation and approval, and <u>annual</u> respirator re-training and fit-testing in accordance with these procedures. Follow rules for proper respirator use and maintenance as prescribed in the EH&S training.
Emergency Response Personnel	Special Provision: Only trained emergency responders wearing appropriate respiratory protection are permitted to access areas that may be Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH). Negative pressure, half-face respirators are not intended for emergency response activities.

Your cooperation is required and appreciated in complying with this important safety program. Questions regarding the implementation of this Policy should be directed to EH&S at 303-492-6025.