

## Voluntarily use of a N-95 or other “dust-mask”

For employees who wish to use a respiratory “voluntarily” are required to follow the manufacture’s safety guidelines specific to the mask they choose to wear. It is our policy that each employee who chooses to “voluntarily” wear a dust mask be briefed on the requirements found in CalOSHA Appendix D §5144. Respirators are available upon request.

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### **Appendix D § 5144: (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.

Employees are expected and required to 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 a respirator into atmospheres containing contaminants for which the respirator is not designated 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.
5. Properly store your respiratory when not in use. [clean-sanitary condition].
6. Properly dispose of your respirator when no longer serviceable or in use.
7. Notify the program coordinator if you or a co-worker have questions, issues or have any breathing problems while wearing a respirator.

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I \_\_\_\_\_ understand the above conditions and use of the respirator I’ve been authorized to use voluntarily.

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Signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
date