

a. Respirator Selection.

(1) Only National Institute for Safety and Occupational Health (NIOSH) certified respirators will be used.

(2) Respirators will be selected and their use verified by Branch Medical Clinic industrial hygienist or Respiratory Protection Program Manager using the following considerations:

- (a) The maximum concentration of the substance in the work area obtained from area sampling or personal exposure monitoring. Reasonable estimates of worker exposure based on historical data, laboratory studies, or exposure models may also be used. If the atmosphere cannot be reasonably characterized, it will be considered to be IDLH.
- (b) The maximum use concentration of the substance.
- (c) The chemical state and physical form of the contaminant.
- (d) Effectiveness and limitations of the device against the substance of concern.
- (e) Other contaminants in the environment or potential for oxygen deficiency.
- (e) General environment (open shop or confined space, etc.)
- (f) Interaction with other PPE.
- (g) Worker preference and acceptance.

(3) For protection against gases and vapors, an atmosphere-supplying respirator will be used. An air-purifying respirator may also be used provided that the respirator is equipped with an end-of-service-life indicator (ESLI) certified by NIOSH for the contaminant. If there is no ESLI appropriate for conditions in the work area, an APR may still be used provided the canisters and cartridges are replaced following criteria will be used determine when the will be replaced:

(2) Respirators for IDLH atmospheres. (i) The employer shall provide the following respirators for employee use in IDLH atmospheres:

(A) A full facepiece pressure demand SCBA certified by NIOSH for a minimum service life of thirty minutes, or

(B) A combination full facepiece pressure demand supplied-air respirator (SAR) with auxiliary self-contained air supply.

(ii) Respirators provided only for escape from IDLH atmospheres shall be NIOSH-certified for escape from the atmosphere in which they will be used.

(iii) All oxygen-deficient atmospheres shall be considered IDLH.

(3) Respirators for atmospheres that are not IDLH. (i)

or

(2)

(iv) For protection against particulates, the employer shall provide:

(A) An atmosphere-supplying respirator; or

(B) An air-purifying respirator equipped with a filter certified by NIOSH under 30 CFR part 11 as a high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter, or an air-purifying respirator equipped with a filter certified for particulates by NIOSH under 42 CFR part 84; or

(C) For contaminants consisting primarily of particles with mass median aerodynamic diameters (MMAD) of at least 2 micrometers, an air-purifying respirator equipped with any filter certified for particulates by NIOSH.

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