

## RESPIRATOR CLEANING PROCEDURES

1. These procedures are provided for employees to use when cleaning respirators. They are general in nature, and cleaning recommendations provided by the manufacturer of the respirators may be used if they are equivalent in effectiveness. Equivalent effectiveness simply means that the procedures used must ensure that the respirator is properly cleaned and disinfected in a manner that prevents damage to the respirator and does not cause harm to the user.

### 2. Procedures for Cleaning Respirators:

a. Remove filters, cartridges, or canisters. Disassemble face pieces by removing speaking diaphragms, demand and pressure-demand valve assemblies, hoses, or any components recommended by the manufacturer. Discard or repair any defective parts.

b. Wash components in warm (43°C, 110°F maximum) water with mild detergent or with a cleaner recommended by the manufacturer. A stiff bristle (not wire) brush may be used to facilitate the removal of dirt.

c. Rinse components thoroughly in clean, warm (43°C, 110°F maximum) , preferably running water. Drain.

d. When the cleaner used does not contain a disinfecting agent, respirator components should be immersed for 2 minutes in one of the following:

(1) Hypochlorite solution (50 ppm of chlorine) made by adding approximately 1 milliliter of laundry bleach to one liter of water at 43°C, 110°F maximum.

(2) Aqueous solution of iodine (50 PPM iodine) made by adding approximately 0.8 milliliters of tincture of iodine (6-8 grams ammonium and/or potassium iodine/100 milliliters of 45% alcohol) to 1 liter of water at 43°C, 110°F.

(3) Other commercially available cleansers of equivalent disinfectant quality when used as directed, if their use is recommended or approved by respirator manufacturer.

e. Rinse components thoroughly in clean, warm (43°C, 110°F maximum), preferably running water. Drain. The importance of thorough rinsing cannot be overemphasized. Detergents of disinfectants that dry on face pieces may result in dermatitis. In addition, some disinfectants may cause deterioration of rubber or corrosion of metal parts if not completely removed.

f. Components should be hand-dried with a clean lint-free cloth or air dried.

g. Reassemble facepiece, replacing filters, cartridges, and canisters where necessary.

h. Inspect and test the respirator to ensure that all components work properly in accordance with the manufacturer's instruction.