

# Respiratory Protection Plan



# Respiratory Protection Program

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## Respiratory Protection Program



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### PURPOSE

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Filtering Facepiece means a negative pressure particulate respirator with a filter as an integral part of the facepiece or with the entire facepiece composed of the filtering medium.

<sup>TM</sup> Note: dust masks and N95 respirators fall into this category.

Fit Factor means a quantitative estimate of the fit of a respirator on a specific individual (i)9 (ndi)v54 0 Td 3 (e)1



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Oxygen Deficient Atmosphere means an atmosphere with an oxygen content below 19.5% volume.

Physician or Other Licensed Health Care Professional (PLHCP) means an individual whose legally permitted scope of practice (i.e., license, registration, or certification) allows him or her to independently provide, or be delegated the responsibility to provide, some or all of the health care services required by paragraph (e) of this section.

Positive Pressure Respirator means a respirator in which the pressure inside the respiratory inlet covering exceeds the ambient air pressure outside the respirator. Example: PAPR unit.

Powered Air-Purifying Respirator (PAPR) means an air-purifying respirator (positive pressure) that uses a blower to force the ambient air through purifying elements to the inlet covering.

Pressure Demand Respirator means a positive pressure atmosphere-supplying respirator that admits breathing air to the facepiece when the positive pressure is reduced inside the facepiece by inhalation.

Qualitative Fit Test (QLFT) means a pass/fail fit test to assess the adequacy of respirator fit that relies on the individual's response to stimuli.

Quantitative Fit Test (QNFT) means an assessment of the adequacy of respirator fit by numerical means.





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### RESPONSIBILITIES

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#### University Leadership (Executive)

Florida Tech has the overall responsibility for providing a place of employment free of recognized hazards and unsafe conditions as well as complying with federal, state, and local regulations. Departments shall provide such equipment and supplies as are necessary to comply with such standards. Leadership has overall responsibility for implementation of the Respiratory Protection Program within their departments. They shall also bear the cost of training, medical evaluations, respiratory protective equipment, and maintenance for their staff members.

#### Supervisors (Including PI's)

Supervisors are responsible for ensuring that the respiratory protection program is implemented in their specific areas and for enforcing respirator use. In addition to being knowledgeable about the program requirements for their own protection, supervisors must also ensure that the program is understood and followed by the employees under their charge. They also must ensure individuals requiring respirator protection are enrolled in the Respiratory Protection Program and that they participate in the ongoing requirements. They may choose to designate an individual to coordinate with EHS for the initial, annual, and periodic requirements. Duties of the supervisor include:

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### Environmental Health & Safety Office (EHS)

The Respiratory Protection Program is administered through EHS as authority to make the technical and administrative decisions necessary for program implementation.

- o Monitor the overall workplace to determine potential employee exposure
- o Provide consultation and monitoring upon request to supervisors in determining respirator requirements
- o Consult with supervisors to select the best type of respirator for their purpose
- o Perform respirator fit tests as required (or coordinating such fit tests)
- o Assist in training employees required to wear respirators
- o Conduct respirator audits to determine program effectiveness and regulatory compliance.

### Employees (Respirator Users)

Employees are responsible for the following

- o Notifying their supervisor if they have concerns or questions regarding respirator use;
- o Notifying their supervisor if they exhibit signs or symptoms of workplace exposure
- o Wearing the appropriate respiratory protective device when deemed necessary;
- o Maintaining a facial surface consistent with a proper fit of the respiratory protective device
- o Performing routine care and preventive maintenance of their selected respirator
- o Guarding against damage to the respirator
- o Making their respirator available for inspection during fit testing
- o Participating in medical evaluation prior to respirator use and as needed;
- o Inspecting their respirator prior to each use
- o Immediately leaving the contaminated area if a respirator malfunction occurs and reporting

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### VOLUNTARILY RESPIRATOR USE

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### MEDICAL EVALUATION

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Using a respirator may place a psychological and physiological burden on employees, which varies with the type of respirator worn, the job, and workplace conditions in which the respirator is used,



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Medical Evaluation Procedure (



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### FIT TESTING

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Fit testing is required initially and annually for employees wearing respirators. Employees are to be fit tested prior to initial use of the respirator, or whenever a different respirator face (size, style, model, or make) is used, and at least annually thereafter.

An additional fit test is conducted whenever the employee, supervisor, or EHS visual observations of changes in the employee's physical condition that could affect respirator fit (scarring, dental changes, cosmetic surgery).

EHS will perform fit tests through Qualitative method. Fit tests involving Quantitative methods





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### RESPIRATOR MALFUNCTION

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For any respirator malfunction (e.g., such as contaminant breakthrough, facepiece leakage, or improperly working valve), the user should go to a designated safe area to maintain, (repair repairs,) or replace the respirator and inform their supervisor. The supervisor must ensure that the employee receives the needed parts to repair the respirator or is provided with a new respirator.

#### NOTE:

When referring to repairs above, this is relating to basic repairs. For any repairs that may require technical knowledge, please see the "MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTION" section in this plan.

### USER SEAL CHECKS

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Performing a seal check is an important way to ensure you have a good seal between your face and the respirator properly seated to the face which allows for optimal protection. A user should (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10) (11) (12) (13) (14) (15) (16) (17) (18) (19) (20) (21) (22) (23) (24) (25) (26) (27) (28) (29) (30) (31) (32) (33) (34) (35) (36) (37) (38) (39) (40) (41) (42) (43) (44) (45) (46) (47) (48) (49) (50) (51) (52) (53) (54) (55) (56) (57) (58) (59) (60) (61) (62) (63) (64) (65) (66) (67) (68) (69) (70) (71) (72) (73) (74) (75) (76) (77) (78) (79) (80) (81) (82) (83) (84) (85) (86) (87) (88) (89) (90) (91) (92) (93) (94) (95) (96) (97) (98) (99) (100)



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### Manufacturer Seal Checks

The respirator manufacturer's recommended procedures for performing a user seal check may be used instead of the positive and/or negative pressure check procedures, provided that the procedures are equally effective in detecting seal leakage compared to the positive pressure and negative pressure checks described above.

### Special Note #1:

When using a respirator



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### EXTENDED USE & REUSE

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As an initial standard, Florida Tech will implement the procedure that all disposable respirators shall be discarded after each use. However, there may be times that this standard is subject to alternative measures (e.g. equipment shortage, example like the events of the COVID-19 pandemic). In either event, Florida Tech will ensure that the OSHA's General Duty Clause is utilized as a standard for continual respirator use.

Under the guidance of authoritative entities (e.g. OSHA, CDC), there are times for which respirators, particularly N95 units, are permitted to be utilized under extended circumstances, re-used, or used when expired. However, whenever respirators are contaminated and cannot be appropriately decontaminated without impacting the units' integrity, has been soiled or damaged, they must be discarded, and a new unit used.

#### Extended Use (or Reuse)

If deemed acceptable by OSHA and in the event extended use or reuse of N95s necessary, the same worker is permitted to extend use of or reuse the respirator, as long as the respirator maintains its structural and functional integrity, the filter material is not physically damaged, soiled, or contaminated (e.g., with blood, oil, dirt, paint).

#### Expired Use of N95's

If N95s are not available and Florida Tech has shown good faith effort to acquire appropriate respirators or to use alternative options, every effort will be made to exercise discretion for the use of N95's beyond the manufacturer's recommended shelf life, so long as it does not violate applicable regulations.

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### Cleaning

Respirators are to be regularly cleaned and disinfected. Respirators issued for R50u04 Tw 12 (hSi)13



## Respiratory Protection Program

### TRAINING

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#### Method & Content

Florida Tech will provide training to all respirators. The training may be online, in person, by document, or may include a combination of all methods. In either method, it will include the type, model, and size of respirator for which each employee has been assigned and fit tested

Various topics will be covered in the training. These include:

- 9 The Florida Tech Respiratory Protection Program/Plan
- 9 The OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard
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## Respiratory Protection Program

### PROGRAM EVALUATION

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The Respiratory Program (Plan) will be reviewed periodically to ensure that the provisions of this program are being implemented. The evaluation schedule in this plan's review, regular consultations with employees and their supervisors (who use respirators), site inspections, air monitoring, and/or a review of other applicable records. Additionally, the program will be re-evaluated given any environmental circumstances that may change workplace hazards (e.g. pandemics).

Problems identified during any evaluation will be addressed and changes made to this plan, if necessary. Whenever changes are made to this plan that impact employee safety or understanding as it relates to respirator use, applicable users will be notified.

### RECORD KEEPING & RETENTION

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An electronic copy of this plan and the OSHA Standard retained by EHS will be made available to all employees who wish to review it.

EHS will maintain the copies of hazard assessments, training, test records. EHS will also maintain copies of the Medical Clearance Records for all employees covered under the respirator program.

The completed Medical Evaluation Questionnaires and documented findings are confidential and will remain with the appropriate medical professional. Records will be retained and available in accordance with 29CFR1910.1020.

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### REFERENCES

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1. [OSHA's Respiratory Protection Standard \(29CFR1910.134\)](#)
2. [OSHA Respiratory Protection Standards Guide](#)
3. [Respiratory Protection Frequently Asked Questions](#)
4. [National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety \(NIOSH\) 42CFR84](#)
5. [Immediately Dangerous to Life or Limb \(IDLH\) Table](#)