Chapter 29: Respiratory Protection

Evaluation and Certification Procedure

1 Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to ensure that respirators are used appropriately and safely. It covers evaluating a worker’s need for a respirator; selecting the appropriate respirator type and cartridge type and changeout schedule; medically evaluating and training workers; and fit testing. It applies to workers, supervisors, ESH coordinators, the Occupational Health Center, and the program manager.

2 Procedure

This procedure is to be performed when

1. Adding a worker to the respiratory protection program (deciding for the first time a worker needs a respirator)
2. Renewing a worker (updating training, fit testing, and medical evaluation, required every year)
3. Removing a worker from the program (deciding a worker no longer needs a respirator)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Person</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Worker</td>
<td>Completes the requester section of the Respiratory Protection: Respirator User Form, describing need (or not) for a respirator, and submits form to supervisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Supervisor</td>
<td>Reviews need for a respirator; completes supervisor section and submits form to the ESH coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>ESH coordinator</td>
<td>Reviews need for a respirator, based on</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Worker justification</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Knowledge of operations</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Existing or new industrial hygiene survey (see Chapter 5, “Industrial Hygiene” and Industrial Hygiene Document Database)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Completes authorization section; if a respirator is justified recommends model and cartridge type</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Respirators are required when an occupational exposure limit (OEL) is or could be exceeded</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Returns form to supervisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Supervisor</td>
<td>If adding (or renewing) a worker, enters (or confirms) the following courses in the worker’s SLAC Training Assessment (STA)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Evaluation and Certification Procedure

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>▪ ESH Course 241, Respiratory Protection Training (<a href="#">ESH Course 241</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>▪ ESH Course 241ME, Respirator Safety Medical Exam (<a href="#">ESH Course 241ME</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>▪ ESH Course 241PRA, Respirator Fit Test (<a href="#">ESH Course 241PRA</a>)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Returns form to worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>If removing a worker from the program, deletes these course assignments and sends form to the respiratory protection program manager (procedure is complete)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Worker Successfully completes **ESH Course 241**

6. Worker Contacts the [Occupational Health Center](#) to schedule respirator medical evaluation ([ESH Course 241ME](#))

7. Occupational Health Center Conducts required respiratory medical evaluation (includes medical questionnaire, exam, and spirometry test)
   Medical questionnaires and exams will be conducted in compliance with [29 CFR 1910.134(e)](#) and [29 CFR 1910.134, Appendix C](#), “OSHA Respirator Medical Evaluation Questionnaire”

8. Occupational Health Center If exam passed, clears individual to wear respirator by completing the medical section of the form; notes any restrictions on type of respirator or use
   Notifies respiratory protection program manager that individual is medically cleared to be fit tested

9. Worker Acquires recommended respirator and cartridges through own department purchase (from Grainger, for example)

10. Worker Contacts the respiratory protection program manager to schedule the practical fit test ([ESH Course 241PRA](#))

11. Worker Ensures face is clean-shaven before the practical to ensure an effective face seal

12. Respiratory protection program manager Conducts practical exam with individual (includes quantitative fit test, donning procedures, cartridge selection, pre-use inspections and face seal checks)
   Fit testing will be conducted in compliance with [29 CFR 1910.134(f)](#). A record of the fit test must be kept until the worker’s next one. Records must include the following:
   - The name or identification of the person tested
   - Type of fit test performed
   - Specific make, model, style, and size of respirator tested
   - Date of test
   - The pass/fail results for qualitative fit tests or the fit factor of the test results for quantitative fit tests

13. Respiratory protection program manager If practical exam passed, certifies individual to wear respirator, completes and keeps form, gives copy to worker, and notifies Occupational Health Center

14. Occupational Health Center Updates individual’s STA to reflect that fit testing and respiratory medical requirements complete
2.1 Additional Requirements

2.1.1 Fit Testing

In addition to initial and annual tests, a fit test must be administered whenever an individual selects a different respirator or when changes occur to the person’s physical condition that could prevent an effective face seal. Such conditions include facial scarring, dental changes, cosmetic surgery, or an obvious change in body weight (a guideline is the loss or gain of 20 pounds).

2.1.2 Medical Reevaluation

Supervisors must immediately refer workers who experience difficulty in respirator use to the Occupational Health Center for medical reevaluation before allowing further respirator use. Conditions that would indicate a need for reevaluation include the following:

- Worker has difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, dizziness, or a severe psychological reaction during respirator use or any phase of fit testing.
- Worker reports signs or symptoms that are related to respirator use.
- Any change in individual exposure or stress, physical difficulty in respirator use, or change in work conditions such as physical work effort, protective clothing, or temperature.

2.1.3 Voluntary Respirator and Dust Mask Use

2.1.3.1 Voluntary Respirator Use

Workers who wish to wear a respirator voluntarily, when a survey or other determination has shown that a respirator is not required, must follow the procedure above and must meet all requirements of this program.

2.1.3.2 Voluntary Dust Mask Use

When a respirator is not required, an individual may choose to use a dust mask instead for comfort. Dust mask users may elect to take the respirator safety training course (ESH Course 241) but will not undergo a medical evaluation, spirometry test, or practical fit test unless required for other respirator use. There is no formal approval process for wearing a dust mask.


If voluntary dust mask use is elected, SLAC will provide the wearer with a National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) approved dust mask.

**Warning** Dust masks are not to be worn as protection against harmful gases or vapor, toxic contaminants, high concentrations of contaminants (such as those released during sandblasting) or in atmospheres that are immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH) or oxygen deficient.
3 Forms

The following forms are required by this procedure:

- **Respiratory Protection: Respirator User Form** (SLAC-I-730-0A09J-010). Form for documenting authorization to use a respirator and completion of required training, medical evaluation, and fit testing.

4 Recordkeeping

The following recordkeeping requirements apply for this procedure:

- The respiratory protection program manager maintains completed respirator user forms.
- The respiratory protection program manager maintains respirator fit test results until the next fit test for the subject worker.
- The Occupational Health Center maintains medical history questionnaire forms and medical exam records for the duration of the affected worker's employment plus 30 years.

5 References

**SLAC Environment, Safety, and Health Manual** (SLAC-I-720-0A29Z-001)

- Chapter 29, “Respiratory Protection”
  - Respiratory Protection: Use, Inspection, Maintenance, and Storage Requirements (SLAC-I-730-0A09S-032)
- Chapter 5, “Industrial Hygiene”
  - Industrial Hygiene Document Database

Other SLAC Documents

- ESH Course 241, Respiratory Protection Training ([ESH Course 241](#))
- ESH Course 241ME, Respirator Safety Medical Exam ([ESH Course 241ME](#))
- ESH Course 241PRA, Respirator Fit Test ([ESH Course 241PRA](#))
- SLAC Training Assessment ([STA](#))
- **SLAC Occupational Health Center**

Other Documents