Effective September 2016

PROCEDURE FOR NON-MANDATORY PERSONAL USE OF A PARTICULATE RESPIRATOR

INSTRUCTORS AND STUDENTS:

Respirator use is permitted in Laboratory and Art Studios if desired for your personal comfort and to provide an additional level of protection. Respirators are an effective method of protection against designated hazards when properly selected and worn. However, if a respirator is used improperly or not kept clean, the respirator itself can become a hazard to the worker. If UT provides a respirator 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.

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. Only UT approved NIOSH-certified respirators that filter particulates; organic, or acid gas odors are allowed.

The type of air-purifying respirator allowed for use is commonly known as a quarter-mask facepiece. These respirators are typically disposable single use. The specific respirators approved for this Laboratory or Art Studio are:_____

CAUTIONS

The purpose of any respirator is to remove contaminants from air immediately before inhalation.

Air-purifying respirators cannot be used in atmospheres containing less than 19.5% Oxygen or cases of extreme air contaminants. Do not wear your respirator into atmospheres containing contaminants for which your respirator is not designed 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.

Immediately notify your instructor if you are having difficulty using a respirator.

PROPER USE

- Ensure proper fit and a tight seal around face.
- Head straps should be snug and not loose.
- Inhalation/Exhalation valves should be clean and free of foreign materials.

- Recognize facial hair impedes proper fit. Pull back long hair and come clean shaven.

USER RESPONSIBILITY

- Read and heed all instructions provided by the manufacturer on use, maintenance, cleaning and care, and warnings regarding the respirators limitations. An example from 3M is provided on next page.
- Do not share respirators
- Write your name the date of first use on your respirator in indelible ink
- Keep respirator in clean Ziploc™ baggie when not in use.
- Discard respirator if inside surfaces become contaminated with dust or debris.

Disposable respirators should be discarded when visibly damaged, dirty, or at the end of job task. Immediately replace the respirator if odors are detected during use with acidic gases or organic solvents as odor fatigue may occur which dulls the olfactory senses.

PERFORM USER SEAL CHECK BEFORE USE

Follow the manufacturer's recommended user seal check procedures located on the box or individual respirator packaging. There are positive and negative pressure seal checks and not every respirator can be checked using both.

Positive Pressure Check –Once the particulate respirator is properly put on (donned), place your hands over the facepiece, covering as much surface area as possible. Exhale gently into the facepiece. The face fit is considered satisfactory if a slight positive pressure is being built up inside the facepiece without any evidence of outward leakage of air at the seal. Examples of such evidence would be the feeling of air trickling onto your face along the seal of the facepiece, fogging of your glasses, or a lack of pressure being built up inside the facepiece.

If the particulate respirator has an exhalation valve, then performing a positive pressure check may be impossible. If so, then follow the following procedures for a negative pressure check.

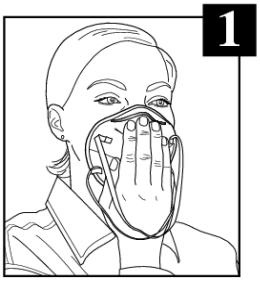
Negative Pressure Check – Negative pressure seal checks are conducted on particulate respirators that have exhalation valves. To conduct a negative pressure user seal check, cover the filter surface with your hands as much as possible and then inhale. The facepiece should collapse on your face and you should not feel air passing between your face and the facepiece.

Source: OSHA Appendix D to Sec. 1910.134 (Mandatory) Information for Employees Using Respirators When Not Required Under the Standard [63 FR 1152, Jan. 8, 1998; 63 FR 20098, April 23, 1998]

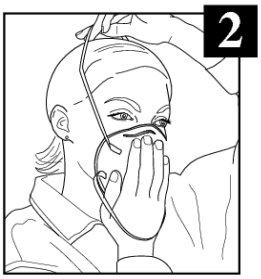
Fitting Instructions for 3M™ Filtering Facepiece Respirators

Issue Date 03/26/04

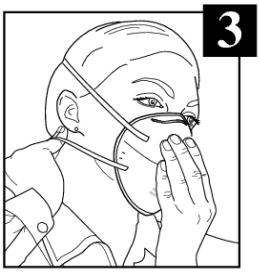
Wearing your filtering facepiece respirator



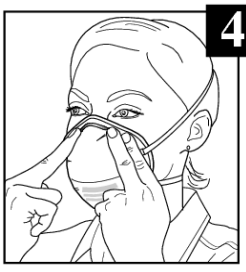
1 Place the respirator over your nose and mouth. Be sure the metal nose clip is on top. With model 8210, pre-stretch the straps before wearing.



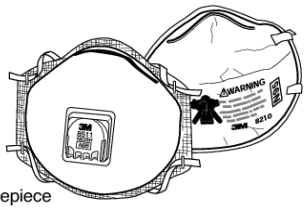
2 Pull the top strap over your head until it rests on the crown of your head above your ears.



3 Pull the bottom strap over your head until it rests just below your ears.



4 Using both hands starting at the top, mold the metal nose clip around your nose to achieve a secure seal. **Note:** Pinching the nosepiece using one hand may result in improper fit and less effective respirator performance. Use two hands.

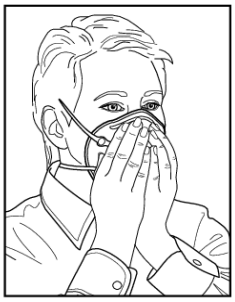


Filtering facepiece non-valved respirator

Filtering facepiece valved respirator

Check the seal of your filtering facepiece respirator each time you don the respirator.

1a **For non-valved respirators** Place both hands completely over the respirator and *exhale*. The respirator should bulge slightly. If air leaks between the face and faceseal of the respirator, reposition it and readjust the nose clip for a more secure seal. If you cannot achieve a proper seal, **do not** enter the contaminated area. See your supervisor.



1b **For valved respirators** Place both hands over the respirator and *inhale* sharply. The respirator should collapse slightly. If air leaks between the face and faceseal of the respirator, reposition it and readjust the nose clip for a more secure seal. If you cannot achieve a proper seal, **do not** enter the contaminated area. See your supervisor.