



TO: All Affected Departments

FROM: Safety Department - ABX Air, Inc.

Update: 09/30/2009

SUBJECT: Safety Bulletin "N-95 Respirators Masks for Voluntary Usage – Comfort Use Only"

---

Voluntary Use: Per the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), use of N-95 respirators or facemasks generally is not recommended for workers in non-healthcare occupational settings for general work activities. All employees that voluntarily wear N-95 respirator masks when not required must review the following information:

Note: Required Use: Any employee required to wear respirators due to occupational exposures must participate in the respiratory protection training, fit testing and medical surveillance program.

Please have any employee who anticipates using a respirator or dusk mask on a voluntary basis read the following material and sign off to confirm that they have reviewed this material. Once signed, please forward the signed copy to Mike Lueck, 2061-S ILN. Should you have any questions please contact Mike Lueck at the following number 937-366-2511 or via email: [Michael.Lueck@abxair.com](mailto:Michael.Lueck@abxair.com).

---

#### **Appendix D to Sec. 1910.134 (Mandatory) Information for Employees Using Respirators When Not Required Under the Standard**

Respirators are an effective method of protection against designated hazards when properly selected and worn. Respirator use is encouraged, even when exposures are below the exposure limit, to provide an additional level of comfort and protection for workers. However, if a respirator is used improperly or not kept clean, the respirator itself can become a hazard to the worker. Sometimes, workers may wear respirators to avoid exposures to hazards, even if the amount of hazardous substance does not exceed the limits set by OSHA standards. If your employer provides respirators 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.

You should do the following:

1. Read and heed all instructions provided by the manufacturer on use, maintenance, cleaning and care, and warnings regarding the respirators limitations.
2. Choose respirators certified for use to protect against the contaminant of concern. 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.
3. 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.
4. Keep track of your respirator so that you do not mistakenly use someone else's respirator.

---

Print Name

---

Date

---

Signature