

**Respirator Voluntary Use Form** (*Individuals Using Filtering Facepiece Respirators When Not Required*)

Respirators are an effective method of protection against designated hazards when properly selected and worn. Respirator use is often requested, even when exposures are below the exposure limit, to provide an additional level of comfort for workers, researchers, or students. However, if a respirator is used improperly or not kept clean, the respirator itself can become a hazard to the user. Sometimes, individuals may wear respirators to avoid exposures to hazards, even if the amount of hazardous substance does not exceed the limits set by regulatory standards. If you elect to wear a filtering facepiece respirator for voluntary use, or if you provide your own respirator, you must take certain precautions to be sure that the respirator itself does not present a hazard.

- ✓ You agree to only use a filtering facepiece type of respirator (e.g., N-95) on a voluntary basis. If you need to use a tight-fitting, elastomeric-type of respirator (e.g. half-face, full face, PAPR, etc.), then all requirements of the respiratory protection program will need to be followed.
- ✓ Read and heed all instructions provided by the manufacturer on use, maintenance, cleaning and care, and warnings regarding the respirator's limitations.
- ✓ Before donning, ensure filtering facepiece to be used is not dirty or contaminated.
- ✓ Filtering facepiece use must not be used if it interferes with the ability to work in a safe manner.
- ✓ Only choose NIOSH, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services certified 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Keep track of your respirator so that you do not mistakenly use someone else's respirator.
- ✓ If you feel faint or dizzy while using a respirator, discontinue use and seek medical attention immediately.

**Respirators are not required for my employment, task, experiment, or work process. I want to wear one voluntarily. I have read the statement above and have been given a copy of this Respirator Voluntary Use Form by EH&S.**

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Name (Print)

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Signature

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Date

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USF EHS Employee Name Issuing Copy of Form

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Area/Process Evaluated