

FREE MANUFACTURING SAFETY TEMPLATE

Respiratory Protection Checklist

Use this 60-point checklist to assess respiratory hazards, respirator selection, medical evaluation, fit testing, use, maintenance, filters and cartridges, supplied air, training, records, and corrective-action closure.

Facility / area

Inspection date

Inspector / reviewer

Department / task

Internal manufacturing safety template. Apply current OSHA 29 CFR 1910.134 requirements, exposure data, medical guidance, manufacturer instructions, and approved site procedures as controlling references.

1. Respiratory protection programme, scope, ownership, and review

1

Confirm a written respiratory protection programme is established and implemented wherever respirators are necessary to protect employee health.

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
---------------	----------------	-------	----------	--------

Execution tip: Start with the current written programme, hazard inventory, exposed job groups, programme administrator, and recent process changes...

2

Verify a qualified programme administrator is designated with authority and resources to oversee respirator selection, medical evaluation, fit testing, use, maintenance, training, and programme evaluation.

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
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Execution tip: Start with the current written programme, hazard inventory, exposed job groups, programme administrator, and recent process changes...

3

Confirm the programme identifies departments, tasks, contaminants, employee groups, routine work, non-routine work, emergencies, and foreseeable respiratory hazards.

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
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Execution tip: Start with the current written programme, hazard inventory, exposed job groups, programme administrator, and recent process changes...

4

Verify respirators, required medical evaluations, fit testing, and training are provided at no cost to affected employees.

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
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Execution tip: Start with the current written programme, hazard inventory, exposed job groups, programme administrator, and recent process changes...

5

Check contractors and temporary workers exposed to respiratory hazards are addressed through coordination, access rules, hazard communication, and applicable employer responsibilities.

RESPIRATORY

C

PC

NC

NA

Execution tip: Start with the current written programme, hazard inventory, exposed job groups, programme administrator, and recent process changes...

6

Review respirator failures, exposure incidents, employee complaints, medical restrictions, fit-test failures, overdue actions, and recurring programme issues during periodic review.

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
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Execution tip: Start with the current written programme, hazard inventory, exposed job groups, programme administrator, and recent process changes...

2. Hazard assessment, exposure evaluation, and respirator selection

7

Confirm workplace respiratory hazards are identified and evaluated, including a reasonable estimate of employee exposure and the contaminant's chemical state and physical form.

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
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Execution tip: Match the respirator to the contaminant, concentration, physical form, oxygen conditions, work duration, emergency potential, and employee...

8

Where exposure cannot be identified or reasonably estimated, verify the atmosphere is treated as immediately dangerous to life or health until adequately characterized.

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
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Execution tip: Match the respirator to the contaminant, concentration, physical form, oxygen conditions, work duration, emergency potential, and employee...

9

Confirm selected respirators are NIOSH-certified and used within the conditions and limitations of their certification.

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
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Execution tip: Match the respirator to the contaminant, concentration, physical form, oxygen conditions, work duration, emergency potential, and employee...

10

Verify respirator type, assigned protection factor, maximum use concentration, filter or cartridge type, and other selection limits are suitable for the measured or reasonably anticipated exposure.

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
---------------	----------------	-------	----------	--------

Execution tip: Match the respirator to the contaminant, concentration, physical form, oxygen conditions, work duration, emergency potential, and employee...

11

Check employees are offered a sufficient number of respirator models and sizes so the selected respirator is acceptable to and correctly fits the user.

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
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Execution tip: Match the respirator to the contaminant, concentration, physical form, oxygen conditions, work duration, emergency potential, and employee...

12

Verify changes in chemicals, process, ventilation, production rate, equipment, work duration, temperature, or work practices trigger reassessment of respiratory hazards and respirator selection.

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
---------------	----------------	-------	----------	--------

Execution tip: Match the respirator to the contaminant, concentration, physical form, oxygen conditions, work duration, emergency potential, and employee...

3. Medical evaluation and fitness to use respirators

13

Confirm every employee required to use a respirator receives a medical evaluation before fit testing or required workplace use.

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
---------------	----------------	-------	----------	--------

Execution tip: Verify medical clearance before looking at fit-test dates: OSHA requires medical evaluation before an employee is fit tested or required to use...

14

Verify medical evaluations are completed by a physician or other licensed health care professional using the OSHA questionnaire or an examination that obtains equivalent required information.

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
---------------	----------------	-------	----------	--------

Execution tip: Verify medical clearance before looking at fit-test dates: OSHA requires medical evaluation before an employee is fit tested or required to use...

15

Check medical questionnaires and examinations are administered confidentially and employees can discuss results with the health care professional.

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
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Execution tip: Verify medical clearance before looking at fit-test dates: OSHA requires medical evaluation before an employee is fit tested or required to use...

16

Confirm the health care professional receives relevant information on respirator type and weight, duration and frequency of use, work effort, other PPE, and temperature or humidity extremes.

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
---------------	----------------	-------	----------	--------

Execution tip: Verify medical clearance before looking at fit-test dates: OSHA requires medical evaluation before an employee is fit tested or required to use...

17

Verify written medical recommendations identify any respirator-use limitations, need for follow-up evaluation, and whether the employee is medically able to use the assigned respirator.

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
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Execution tip: Verify medical clearance before looking at fit-test dates: OSHA requires medical evaluation before an employee is fit tested or required to use...

18

Confirm additional medical evaluation is arranged when symptoms, professional recommendations, programme observations, or workplace changes indicate increased physiological burden or reduced ability to use a...

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
---------------	----------------	-------	----------	--------

Execution tip: Verify medical clearance before looking at fit-test dates: OSHA requires medical evaluation before an employee is fit tested or required to use...

4. Fit testing, facepiece selection, and fit-test records

19

Confirm employees using tight-fitting facepiece respirators pass an appropriate fit test before initial use.

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
---------------	----------------	-------	----------	--------

Execution tip: Sample fit-test records against the respirator actually issued: the make, model, style, and size used at work should match the facepiece that...

20

Verify fit testing is repeated whenever a different respirator facepiece size, style, model, or make is used and at least annually thereafter.

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
---------------	----------------	-------	----------	--------

Execution tip: Sample fit-test records against the respirator actually issued: the make, model, style, and size used at work should match the facepiece that...

21

Confirm additional fit testing is completed when facial scarring, dental changes, cosmetic surgery, body-weight change, or another physical condition could affect respirator fit.

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
---------------	----------------	-------	----------	--------

Execution tip: Sample fit-test records against the respirator actually issued: the make, model, style, and size used at work should match the facepiece that...

22

Verify qualitative or quantitative fit-test methods are selected and performed using an OSHA-accepted protocol appropriate to the respirator and required protection level.

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
---------------	----------------	-------	----------	--------

Execution tip: Sample fit-test records against the respirator actually issued: the make, model, style, and size used at work should match the facepiece that...

23

Check employees who report an unacceptable fit after passing a test are allowed to select another acceptable facepiece and are retested.

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
---------------	----------------	-------	----------	--------

Execution tip: Sample fit-test records against the respirator actually issued: the make, model, style, and size used at work should match the facepiece that...

24

Verify fit-test records identify the employee, test type, respirator make/model/style/size, test date, and pass/fail result or quantitative fit factor.

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
---------------	----------------	-------	----------	--------

Execution tip: Sample fit-test records against the respirator actually issued: the make, model, style, and size used at work should match the facepiece that...

5. Face seal, donning, user seal checks, and workplace use

25

Confirm tight-fitting facepieces are not worn when facial hair or another condition comes between the sealing surface and the face or interferes with valve function.

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

Compliant

Needs action

Critical

LIVE PHOTO | Add

Execution tip: Observe respirators during real work. A valid fit test does not protect the employee if facial hair, eyewear, poor donning, leakage,...

26

Verify corrective glasses, goggles, face shields, hearing protection, helmets, and other PPE are worn without interfering with the face-to-facepiece seal.

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

Compliant

Needs action

Critical

LIVE PHOTO | Add

Execution tip: Observe respirators during real work. A valid fit test does not protect the employee if facial hair, eyewear, poor donning, leakage,...

27

Observe employees performing the required user seal check each time a tight-fitting respirator is put on.

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

Compliant

Needs action

Critical

LIVE PHOTO | Add

Execution tip: Observe respirators during real work. A valid fit test does not protect the employee if facial hair, eyewear, poor donning, leakage,...

28

Confirm employees know to leave the respirator-use area if they detect gas or vapor breakthrough, leakage, increased breathing resistance, irritation, or another sign of respirator failure.

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

C

PC

NC

NA

Execution tip: Observe respirators during real work. A valid fit test does not protect the employee if facial hair, eyewear, poor donning, leakage,...

29

Verify respirators, filters, cartridges, canisters, or components are repaired or replaced before employees re-enter an exposure area after a detected failure.

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
---------------	----------------	-------	----------	--------

Execution tip: Observe respirators during real work. A valid fit test does not protect the employee if facial hair, eyewear, poor donning, leakage,...

30

Check work-area conditions, exposure, physical stress, temperature, humidity, and task demands are monitored for changes that could reduce continued respirator effectiveness.

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
---------------	----------------	-------	----------	--------

Execution tip: Observe respirators during real work. A valid fit test does not protect the employee if facial hair, eyewear, poor donning, leakage,...

6. Cleaning, inspection, repair, storage, and emergency readiness

31

Confirm reusable respirators are cleaned and disinfected using approved procedures at frequencies appropriate to exclusive use, shared use, emergency use, and fit testing.

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
---------------	----------------	-------	----------	--------

Execution tip: Inspect actual stored respirators, not only records. Look for contamination, distorted facepieces, damaged straps, valve defects, expired...

32

Inspect facepieces, straps, valves, gaskets, cartridges, filters, hoses, regulators, alarms, and other components for damage, contamination, deterioration, or missing parts.

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

Compliant

Needs action

Critical

LIVE PHOTO | Add

Execution tip: Inspect actual stored respirators, not only records. Look for contamination, distorted facepieces, damaged straps, valve defects, expired...

33

Verify respirators are stored to protect them from damage, contamination, dust, sunlight, extreme temperatures, excessive moisture, chemicals, and deformation.

RESPIRATORY

Compliant

Needs action

Critical

LIVE PHOTO | Add

Execution tip: Inspect actual stored respirators, not only records. Look for contamination, distorted facepieces, damaged straps, valve defects, expired...

34

Confirm respirator repairs and adjustments are performed only by appropriately trained persons using manufacturer-approved or NIOSH-approved parts as applicable.

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
---------------	----------------	-------	----------	--------

Execution tip: Inspect actual stored respirators, not only records. Look for contamination, distorted facepieces, damaged straps, valve defects, expired...

35

Verify emergency-use respirators are inspected at least monthly and before and after each use, with documented findings and corrective action.

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
---------------	----------------	-------	----------	--------

Execution tip: Inspect actual stored respirators, not only records. Look for contamination, distorted facepieces, damaged straps, valve defects, expired...

36

Check SCBA cylinders and emergency respirators are maintained in a ready condition, fully charged or within required service limits, and immediately accessible where assigned.

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

Compliant

Needs action

Critical

LIVE PHOTO | Add

Execution tip: Inspect actual stored respirators, not only records. Look for contamination, distorted facepieces, damaged straps, valve defects, expired...

7. Filters, cartridges, canisters, change schedules, and identification

37

Confirm filters, cartridges, and canisters are the correct NIOSH-approved type for the contaminant, respirator, and conditions of use.

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
---------------	----------------	-------	----------	--------

Execution tip: Do not rely on odor or employee memory for gas/vapor cartridge replacement. Verify the programme documents an ESLI or...

38

Verify all filters, cartridges, and canisters retain legible NIOSH approval labels and color coding and are not mixed with incompatible components.

RESPIRATORY

Compliant

Needs action

Critical

LIVE PHOTO | Add

Execution tip: Do not rely on odor or employee memory for gas/vapor cartridge replacement. Verify the programme documents an ESLI or...

39

For gas and vapor cartridges without an appropriate end-of-service-life indicator, confirm a documented change schedule is based on objective information or data.

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
---------------	----------------	-------	----------	--------

Execution tip: Do not rely on odor or employee memory for gas/vapor cartridge replacement. Verify the programme documents an ESLI or...

40

Verify cartridge or canister change schedules consider contaminant concentration, humidity, temperature, work rate, service time, manufacturer information, and other relevant workplace factors.

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
---------------	----------------	-------	----------	--------

Execution tip: Do not rely on odor or employee memory for gas/vapor cartridge replacement. Verify the programme documents an ESLI or...

41

Check particulate filters are replaced when damaged, soiled, contaminated, or when breathing resistance becomes excessive, and according to applicable programme or manufacturer criteria.

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
---------------	----------------	-------	----------	--------

Execution tip: Do not rely on odor or employee memory for gas/vapor cartridge replacement. Verify the programme documents an ESLI or...

42

Confirm opened, issued, spare, and expired filters or cartridges are identified and controlled so employees cannot unknowingly use unsuitable or out-of-service components.

RESPIRATORY

Compliant

Needs action

Critical

LIVE PHOTO | Add

Execution tip: Do not rely on odor or employee memory for gas/vapor cartridge replacement. Verify the programme documents an ESLI or...

8. Atmosphere-supplying respirators, IDLH work, and breathing air

43

Confirm oxygen-deficient or otherwise IDLH atmospheres are identified and only respirators permitted for IDLH conditions are selected.

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
---------------	----------------	-------	----------	--------

Execution tip: Treat uncertain or oxygen-deficient conditions conservatively. Verify the selected equipment, standby personnel, communications, rescue...

44

Verify IDLH work uses a full-facepiece pressure-demand SCBA with appropriate service life or a pressure-demand supplied-air respirator with auxiliary self-contained air supply as applicable.

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
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Execution tip: Treat uncertain or oxygen-deficient conditions conservatively. Verify the selected equipment, standby personnel, communications, rescue...

45

Confirm at least one appropriately equipped employee remains outside the IDLH atmosphere and maintains visual, voice, or signal-line communication with entrants.

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
---------------	----------------	-------	----------	--------

Execution tip: Treat uncertain or oxygen-deficient conditions conservatively. Verify the selected equipment, standby personnel, communications, rescue...

46

Verify standby employees are trained and equipped for effective emergency rescue and the employer or designee is notified before rescue entry.

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
---------------	----------------	-------	----------	--------

Execution tip: Treat uncertain or oxygen-deficient conditions conservatively. Verify the selected equipment, standby personnel, communications, rescue...

47

Check supplied breathing air meets applicable quality requirements and compressor controls, alarms, carbon-monoxide monitoring, couplings, cylinders, and records are maintained.

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
---------------	----------------	-------	----------	--------

Execution tip: Treat uncertain or oxygen-deficient conditions conservatively. Verify the selected equipment, standby personnel, communications, rescue...

48

Verify breathing-air couplings cannot be connected to nonrespirable air or other gas systems and no asphyxiating substance can enter respirator air lines.

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

Compliant

Needs action

Critical

LIVE PHOTO | Add

Execution tip: Treat uncertain or oxygen-deficient conditions conservatively. Verify the selected equipment, standby personnel, communications, rescue...

9. Training, competency, voluntary use, and supervision

49

Confirm required respirator users receive comprehensive and understandable training before workplace use and retraining at least annually.

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
---------------	----------------	-------	----------	--------

Execution tip: Ask employees to demonstrate respirator use. Effective training should be visible in how they inspect, don, seal-check, remove, maintain,...

50

Verify employees can explain why the respirator is necessary and how improper fit, use, or maintenance can compromise protection.

RESPIRATORY

C

PC

NC

NA

Execution tip: Ask employees to demonstrate respirator use. Effective training should be visible in how they inspect, don, seal-check, remove, maintain,...

51

Observe employees demonstrating respirator inspection, donning, removal, seal checking, cartridge or filter control, maintenance, and storage.

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

Compliant

Needs action

Critical

LIVE PHOTO | Add

Execution tip: Ask employees to demonstrate respirator use. Effective training should be visible in how they inspect, don, seal-check, remove, maintain,...

52

Confirm employees understand respirator capabilities and limitations, emergency use, malfunction response, and medical signs or symptoms that may limit safe use.

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

C

PC

NC

NA

Execution tip: Ask employees to demonstrate respirator use. Effective training should be visible in how they inspect, don, seal-check, remove, maintain,...

53

For voluntary respirator use, verify employees receive the information required by Appendix D and the employer determines that voluntary use itself does not create a hazard.

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
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Execution tip: Ask employees to demonstrate respirator use. Effective training should be visible in how they inspect, don, seal-check, remove, maintain,...

54

Check supervisors identify and correct improper respirator use, unapproved substitutions, facial-hair issues, damaged equipment, overdue fit tests, and training gaps promptly.

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
---------------	----------------	-------	----------	--------

Execution tip: Ask employees to demonstrate respirator use. Effective training should be visible in how they inspect, don, seal-check, remove, maintain,...

10. Programme evaluation, records, corrective actions, and sign-off

55

Confirm workplace evaluations are conducted as necessary to verify the written respiratory protection programme is being properly implemented and remains effective.

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
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Execution tip: Keep respiratory-protection findings open until evidence shows the hazard, selection, user, equipment, training, and programme-control issue...

56

Verify required respirator users are consulted about fit, selection, use, maintenance, comfort, interference with work, and other programme problems.

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
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Execution tip: Keep respiratory-protection findings open until evidence shows the hazard, selection, user, equipment, training, and programme-control issue...

57

Confirm medical-evaluation records are retained and made available in accordance with applicable OSHA access-to-medical-record requirements.

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
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Execution tip: Keep respiratory-protection findings open until evidence shows the hazard, selection, user, equipment, training, and programme-control issue...

58

Verify fit-test records are retained for respirator users until the next fit test and the current written respiratory protection programme is retained.

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
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Execution tip: Keep respiratory-protection findings open until evidence shows the hazard, selection, user, equipment, training, and programme-control issue...

59

Assign every respiratory-protection finding to a named owner with risk level, due date, interim control, required evidence, escalation path, and affected task or employee group.

RESPIRATORY

Record / item	Current status	Owner	Evidence	Action
---------------	----------------	-------	----------	--------

Execution tip: Keep respiratory-protection findings open until evidence shows the hazard, selection, user, equipment, training, and programme-control issue...

60

Record final inspection status, unresolved critical respiratory risks, required work restrictions, corrective-action verification, next review date, inspector, reviewer, date, and approval.

CRITICAL

RESPIRATORY

FINAL STATUS | Enter

REVIEWER | Enter

APPROVAL | Enter

Execution tip: Keep respiratory-protection findings open until evidence shows the hazard, selection, user, equipment, training, and programme-control issue...