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## **VOLUNTARY RESPIRATORY PROTECTION PROGRAM FOR FILTER FACEPIECES (ONLY)**

### **WELCOME!**

This written sample program is for employers who must comply with the 1910.134(c)(2)(ii) exception which covers voluntary use of filtering facepieces. Per 1910.134(c)(2)(ii): “Employers are not required to include in a written respiratory protection program those employees whose only use of respirators involves the voluntary use of filtering facepieces (dust masks).” They must however; comply with the requirements of Appendix D under the standard. A sample written program for “traditional respirator use” AND a sample written program for voluntary use respirators, other than the above referenced type, can be found within this Consultative Services Web site as well.

This document is provided as a compliance aid, but does not constitute a legal interpretation of OSHA Standards, nor does it replace the need to be familiar with, and follow, the actual OSHA Standards (including any North Carolina specific changes.) Although this document is intended to be consistent with OSHA Standards, if an area is considered by the reader to be inconsistent, the OSHA standard should be referred to and followed. Of course, we welcome your comments and feedback!

The N.C. Department of Labor OSH Consultative Services Bureau can be contacted for further assistance such as helping you set up your individual program and even with on-site surveys. Feel free to contact us at 1-800-NC-LABOR or at (919) 807-2899. You may also want to visit the Consultative Services Bureau Web site at: <http://www.nclabor.com/osh/consult/consult.htm>.

Remember: A written safety/health program is only effective if it is put into place!

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(Company Name)

## **Respiratory Protection**

### **(Voluntary Use – Filtering Facepiece ONLY)**

#### **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.

