

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO - DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WEIGHTS AND MEASURES
PESTICIDE REGULATION PROGRAM

Annual Respiratory Protection Program for the Year _____

For employees who wear respirators while applying pesticides. Must be completed annually.

This handout is provided to help employers meet the requirement of section 6739 in the California Code of Regulations (CCR). It is meant as a basic program and may not meet all requirements specific to your work situation.

Elements of Respiratory Protection Program

All of the following topics must be addressed according to your situation:

- Selection
- Medical Evaluation (only needs to be completed once)
- Fit Testing
- Work site-specific procedures
- Proper use for routine and emergency
- Maintenance, cleaning and care
- Ensure breathing air quality
- Training in respiratory hazards
- Training in donning, doffing, limitations
- Program evaluation

Administration

The Respirator Program Administrator (RPA) is _____
Name - Person Responsible for Program

Company Policy (Check which apply)

- _____ Our employees use pesticides that require the use of respirators.
- _____ We require our employees to wear respirators when applying pesticides.
- _____ We provide employees with appropriate respirators and encourage, but not require, their use. {Voluntary Use – Must post information in CCR 6739 (r)}

Respirator Selection

Only respiratory protective equipment approved by NIOSH (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health) will be used. The equipment must be approved for the specific hazard. We base our selection on:

_____ **Pesticide Label** _____ **Respirator Manufacturer** _____ **Regulation**

Training Materials

We use the following materials to train our employees in the proper use, care and limitations of respirators:

- _____ **Pesticide Safety Information Series A-5**
- _____ **Manufacturer's Instructions**
- _____ **Audio/Video Instruction: Title _____**

_____ **Other:** _____

Instruction and Training

Employees who are required to use respirators must be trained before wearing a respirator and at least annually thereafter. All records must be kept for at least 3 years and made available for inspection. After training, employees should be able to demonstrate knowledge of at least:

- Why the respirator is necessary and how improper fit, use, or maintenance can compromise its protective effect
- Limitations and capabilities of the respirator
- Effective use in emergency situations
- How to inspect, put on and remove, use and check the seals
- Maintenance and storage
- Recognition of medical signs and symptoms that may limit or prevent effective use

Maintenance, Inspection and Repair

Respirators are to be inspected by the employee prior to wearing each day. All parts must be clean and in working order. The administrator will make spot inspections of respirators:

Check one: Daily Weekly Monthly Other: _____

- Respirators must be stored to protect them from damage and contamination.
- Disposable filtering face-piece (resemble dust masks) respirators shall be discarded at the end of the workday or sooner if breathing resistance becomes too great.
- Cartridges and disposable respirators with non-removable cartridges shall be discarded and replaced at the first indication of odor, taste or irritation during use. They shall also be discarded at the end of the work day, unless pesticide-specific instructions on pesticide labels or pesticide-specific manufacturer's instructions allows for longer use. This does not apply to voluntary use respirators.

Fit Testing

All employees that are required to use a tight-fitting facepiece respirator must be fit tested prior to use. Check off which test or tests were used:

Qualitative

- Iso-amyl acetate test (banana oil)
- Saccharin Test
- Bitrex ® Test
- Irritant Smoke Test

Quantitative

- Generated Aerosol
- Condensation Nuclei Counter
- Controlled Negative Pressure

Evaluation and Employee Consultation

This written program shall be evaluated annually to ensure that it reflects conditions found in the workplace. During the annual training, workers should be asked about fit, maintenance, etc. to ensure worker feedback concerning their use of respirators.

Employees were consulted about the effectiveness of this program on: _____
Date

Check one:

- No Change needed Changes will be implemented in the next program