

TOOLBOX TALK

RESPIRATORY PROTECTION: EP16

Practical Tips for purchasing and using respiratory protection

- **Verify Certification:**
 - » Request homologation or external certifications (e.g., from BSI or national regulators).
 - » Avoid uncertified products, especially those without test reports.
- **Evaluate Fit-for-Purpose:**
 - » Understand the exposure risks specific to your site (e.g., welding requires particle and gas filtration with FFP2 or higher).
 - » Consider shift duration and implement change-out schedules for disposable and reusable respirators.
- **Training and Awareness:**
 - » Educate workers about the importance of using certified respirators.
 - » Train staff on inspecting masks for fit, functionality, and damage before use.
- **Sustainability and Disposal:**
 - » Follow proper disposal protocols for used respirators, particularly those contaminated with hazardous substances.



Change-Out Schedules:

- Disposable respirators are typically rated for a single shift, but actual performance varies. For instance:
 - » Some products may last 8 hours, while others, like certain 3M respirators, can function effectively for up to 12 hours.
- Reusable respirators require regular cartridge changes based on workplace exposure levels and filter clogging. Safety managers must establish and communicate clear schedules for filter replacement to workers.

For Procurement:

- When considering alternatives, ensure all factors are thoroughly evaluated, and a like-for-like comparison is applied, including: environmental impact, risks, usage duration, and certification. Our expert team are here to guide you if required.

Standards Overview:

- **EN 149:** Covers disposable respirators, focusing on filter media, durability, and performance, including Dolomite dust testing (introduced in the 2009 amendment).
- **EN 140:** Applies to reusable respirators, addressing fit, cleaning, storage, and filter compatibility, including encapsulated cartridges.

Need Help?

One of our experts are available to assist with your respiratory requirements

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