



UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

Safety Office Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) Respiratory Protection Equipment Cleaning, Inspection, Maintenance, Repair, and Storage

I. Introduction

This SOP supports the University of Wyoming (UW) Respiratory Protection Program by providing specific information regarding respiratory protection equipment cleaning, inspection, maintenance, repair, and storage. Follow manufacturer's instructions for cleaning, inspection, maintenance, repair, and storage. For specific questions regarding this SOP, contact the UW Respiratory Protection Program Administrator at: 766-3203.

II. Scope

This SOP applies to the UW Respiratory Protection Program equipment.

III. Procedure

Cleaning

The following information is intended as general guidance for appropriate cleaning and disinfecting, but is not intended to replace the manufacturer's recommendations. If you cannot find the user manual for your respiratory protection equipment, contact the Program Administrator for a replacement.

1. N95 Filtering Face-piece Respirator

No cleaning or disinfecting protocols. If respirator is soiled, wet, torn, structural integrity compromised, or unable to achieve a fit check seal, discard respirator. If respiratory protection is used for a patient who is potential for airborne isolation precautions, discard after use.

2. Powered Air-Purifying Respirator

After use, wipe the blower unit, battery pack, air tube, and hood with a mild cleaning solution. Do not immerse the blower unit, battery pack, or charger into liquid solutions. For soiled or damaged filters, immediately discard. Do not attempt to clean PAPR filters. Obtain new PAPR filters from the Program Administrator.

3. Other Air-Purifying (half face/full face) or Supplied-Air Respirators

Regularly clean and disinfect with a mild detergent or cleaner recommended by the manufacturer, if applicable. Remove filters, cartridges, or canisters. Disassemble face pieces as recommended by the manufacturer for proper cleaning. Rinse components thoroughly with clean, warm water to ensure detergents or cleaners do not dry on components thereby potentially causing contact dermatitis to the user. Hand dry (use lint free cloth) or air dry components. Reassemble and replace any defective parts. If



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respiratory protection equipment is issued for the exclusive use of an employee, clean as often as necessary, but at least once per day, if applicable. Atmosphere supplying and emergency use respiratory protection equipment are to be cleaned after each use.

Inspection, Maintenance, and Repairs

Inspection and maintenance involves a thorough visual inspection for cleanliness and defects. Inspect respiratory protection equipment prior to use to ensure the equipment is in proper working condition. At a minimum, the items listed in Respiratory Protection Equipment Checklist (Appendix J) must be inspected.

Worn or deteriorated parts must be replaced prior to use.

No components will be replaced or repairs made beyond those recommended by the manufacturer. Only use manufacturer's original equipment parts.

If parts are required for your respirator, contact the Program Administrator to obtain replacement parts.

Repairs or adjustments made to regulators, reducing, and admission valves; or alarms of atmosphere-supplying respirators shall be completed by the equipment manufacturer.

Storage

Store respiratory protection equipment in sealed, air-tight containers (for example, zip lock bag and place name on bag) and store in a clean, dry, moderate temperature/non-contaminated environment.

Store cartridges in sealed bags to prevent absorption of gases and vapors from the surrounding atmosphere.

Store particulate filters in a manner that prevents dust accumulation on the filter. For N95 filtering face-piece respirators, discard after shift.

Defective Respiratory Protection Equipment

Defective N95 filtering face-piece respirators may be discarded immediately.

For other defective respiratory protection equipment, remove from service immediately, tag "Do Not Use", and notify your Department Director/Manager/Supervisor and the Program Administrator.



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The Program Administrator will repair the respiratory protection equipment onsite, if possible; send the respiratory protection equipment to the manufacturer for repair; or discard the respiratory protection equipment and replace with new equipment.

Respiratory Protection Equipment Malfunction/Failure

If respiratory protection equipment malfunctions or fails (for example, breakthrough, face piece leakage, or improperly working valve), immediately exit the contaminated environment before removing the respirator. Do not reenter the contaminated area until the equipment malfunction/failure has been resolved.

Contact your Department Director/Manager/Supervisor that the respiratory protection equipment no longer functions as intended.

The Department Director/Manager/Supervisor will notify the Program Administrator.

The Program Administrator will repair the respiratory protection equipment onsite, if possible, send the respiratory protection equipment to the manufacturer for repair, or discard the respiratory protection equipment and replace with new equipment.

IV. References

UW Respiratory Protection Program
UW Respiratory Protection Program Appendix J
29 CFR 1910.134