



Respirator responsibilities — employers

You must evaluate your worksite for breathing hazards and eliminate or minimize them. If your workplace still contains dangerous air contaminants, you are responsible for protecting your workers from breathing hazards by providing respiratory protection.

What are your responsibilities with respect to respirators?

Employers are required to establish and maintain a respirator program if a risk assessment has identified a breathing hazard:

- Provide respirators and respiratory equipment, such as replacement filters and cartridges, and materials for workers to clean and store their respirators, at your cost.
- Select the appropriate type of respirator for the breathing hazard. NIOSH approved respirators are accepted for use by WorkSafeBC.
- Ensure that workers participate in the selection of their individual respirators in consultation with their Occupational Health and Safety Committee representative or health and safety representative, as applicable.
- Ensure that workers are fit tested.
- Provide supervisors and workers with instruction and training in safe use of respirators, including fitting, seal checking, wearing, cleaning, maintenance, and storage.
- Ensure that respirators are worn when necessary and seal checks are performed.
- Make sure equipment is maintained, inspected, repaired, or replaced.
- Obtain a medical assessment if there is a concern about a worker's ability to wear a respirator.
- Develop emergency evacuation procedures if necessary and ensure that supervisors and workers receive appropriate training for rescue and evacuation.
- Report and record all illnesses or injuries that result from breathing hazards and that require medical aid.
- Keep records of your respirator program, including worker training, fit test results, and maintenance.



Disposable respirator



Half facepiece elastomeric respirator



Full facepiece elastomeric respirator

To keep your workers safe, you must ensure that your respirators and respirator program **meet standards acceptable to WorkSafeBC.**

For more information see the WorkSafeBC publication *Breathe Safer*.