

<b>Task:</b>		<b>Respirator Model:</b>	
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Voluntary use of filtering face-pieces is acceptable, if it meets the definition provided by OSHA. “A negative pressure particulate respirator with a filter as an integral part of the face-piece or with the entire face-piece composed of the filtering medium.” If the respirator has a removable/replaceable cartridge-type filter, then the user **cannot** sign this form, but must enter the full respiratory protection program. If a supervisor requires the use of a filtering-facepiece, then it is no longer voluntary, and all affected direct-reports must enter the full respiratory protection program.

**Voluntary Use of Respirators - *OSHA, Appendix D to Section 1910.134 (Mandatory)***

Filtering face-pieces are an effective method of protection against designated hazards when properly selected and worn. The use of filtering face-pieces is encouraged, even when exposures are below the exposure limit, if it provides an additional level of comfort and protection for workers. However, if a filtering face-piece is used improperly, then the mask itself can become a hazard to the worker. If your employer provides filtering face-pieces for your voluntary use, or if you provide your own, you need to take certain precautions to be sure the mask itself does not present a hazard.

You should do the following:

1. Read and heed all instructions provided by the manufacturer on use, maintenance, storage, and limitation warnings. The edges of the respirator must be in direct contact with your skin. Facial hair between the respirator and your skin will eliminate any protection factor provide by the respirator.
2. Choose filtering face-pieces 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 and filtering face pieces. A label or statement of certification will convey the filtering face-pieces intended use and level of protection.
3. Do not wear your filtering face-piece into atmospheres containing contaminants for which the filter is not designed to protect against. For example, a filtering face-piece designed to filter dust particles will not protect you against gases, vapors, fumes, or smoke.
4. Keep track of your respirator so you do not mistakenly use someone else's. If the respirator is intended for one-time use, dispose of the filtering face-piece respirator in the general trash after use.
5. Understand that respirators place a physical burden on your cardiovascular and respiratory system. Although medical clearance is not required for voluntary use, it is strongly recommended that you discuss the physiological burden with your physician, especially if you have a pre-existing condition which may be exacerbated by wearing a respirator.

**I have read the statement above and acknowledge that the risk assessment confirmed a respirator is not required for the task in question. I have reviewed this document and elect to wear a filtering face-piece voluntarily. I understand the risks and accept the responsibility to follow proper procedures.**

**Name: (Print)** \_\_\_\_\_ **CNet ID:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name: (Signature)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Email completed forms to [safety@uchicago.edu](mailto:safety@uchicago.edu)*