

Section 5A: Safety Management Systems

Policy #7: Respiratory Protection Policy
Effective Date: December 15, 2016
Last Revision Date: Original Policy

I. Purpose

The guidelines established in this policy are intended to protect employees from respiratory hazards and ensure the Town's compliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Respiratory Protection Program Standard. This policy serves as a reference for respiratory safety requirements and outlines the necessary framework for individual departments to complete site specific Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for respiratory protection. The Town of Mooresville will strive to eliminate exposure to contaminants through engineering controls, such as ventilation and substitution of less toxic materials, followed by suitable work practices that reduce employee exposure. When effective engineering and administrative controls are not feasible, or while they are being implemented or evaluated, respiratory protection may be required to achieve this goal. If these controls are not feasible, the use of Respiratory Protective Equipment will be required.

II. Scope

This program applies to all Town of Mooresville employees who may be exposed to air contaminants or oxygen deficient atmospheres. It establishes safe practices for the use of respiratory protective devices and is designed to help reduce employee exposure against occupational dusts, fogs, fumes, mists, gases, smokes, sprays, or vapors.

NOTE: The Town of Mooresville's Fire Department is exempt from this policy and shall follow their existing internal respiratory protection procedures in accordance with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards.

III. Legislation/References

- ❖ 29 CFR §1910.134: *Respiratory Protection*
- ❖ National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH): *Final Rule on Respiratory Protective Devices (1995)*
- ❖ 42 CFR Part 84: *Approval for Respiratory Protective Devices*
- ❖ 29 CFR §1910.1020: *Access to Employee Exposure and Medical Records*
- ❖ Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA): *Fit Testing Procedures (Appendix A, Mandatory) (2006)*
- ❖ 3M® Respiratory Selection Guide (2015)

IV. Definitions

Administrative Controls: Actions taken to reduce an employee's exposure for an identified airborne contaminant (i.e., adjusting work schedules so that no employee receives an overexposure).