

## Respiratory Protection Plan – Appendix A: Definitions

**Air-purifying respirator** – a respirator with an air-purifying filter, cartridge, or canister that removes specific air contaminants by passing ambient air through the air-purifying element.

**Assigned protection factor (APF)** – the workplace level of respiratory protection that a respirator or class of respirators is expected to provide to employees when the employer implements a continuing, effective respiratory protection program as specified by this section.

**Atmosphere-supplying respirator** – a respirator that supplies the respirator used with breathing air from a source independent of the ambient atmosphere, and includes supplied-air respirators (SARs) and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) units.

**Canister or cartridge** – a container with a filter, sorbent, or catalyst, or combination of these items, which removes specific contaminants from the air passed through the container.

**Elastomeric respirator** – A type of reusable air-purifying respirator with exchangeable filter elements (cartridges or filters) that may be selected to provide the needed level of protection (e.g., N95) against gases, vapors, and particles if equipped with the right filters or cartridges. The facepiece can be made of synthetic or natural rubber material that allows repeated cleaning, disinfection, storage, and reuse.

**End-of-service-life indicator (ESLI)** – a system that warns the respirator user of the approach of the end of adequate respiratory protection, for example, that the sorbent is approaching saturation or is no longer effective.

**Filter or air purifying element** – a component used in respirators to remove solid or liquid aerosols from the inspired air.

**Filtering facepiece (dust mask)** - a negative pressure particulate respirator with a filter as an integral part of the facepiece or with the entire facepiece composed of the filtering medium.

**Fit factor** – a quantitative estimate of the fit of a particular respirator to a specific individual, and typically estimates the ratio of the concentration of a substance in ambient air to its concentration inside the respirator when worn.

**Fit test** – the use of a protocol to qualitatively or quantitatively evaluate the fit of a respirator on an individual. (See also Qualitative fit test QLFT and Quantitative fit test QNFT).

**Immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH)** – an atmosphere that poses an immediate threat to life, would cause irreversible adverse health effects, or would impair an individual's ability to escape from a dangerous atmosphere.

**Maximum use concentration (MUC)** – the maximum atmospheric concentration of a hazardous substance from which an employee can be expected to be protected against

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when wearing a respirator, and is determined by the assigned protection factor of the respirator of class of respirators and the exposure limit of the hazardous substance. The MUC can be determined by multiplying the assigned protection factor, specified for a respirator, by the required OSHA permissible exposure limit, short-term exposure limit, or ceiling limit. When no OSHA exposure limit is available for a hazardous substance, the employer must determine an MUC on the basis of relevant available information and informed professional judgment.

**Negative pressure respirator (tight fitting)** – a respirator in which the air pressure inside the facepiece is negative during inhalation with respect to the ambient air pressure outside the respirator.

**Oxygen deficient atmosphere** – an atmosphere with an oxygen content below 19.5 percent by volume.

**Employee** – an individual employed by Portland Community College. Students enrolled in the College's clinical affiliation programs, apprenticeship programs, cooperative education program, and professional crafts programs are included as College employees when they are working within the programs on or off campus.

**National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) approved respirators** – NIOSH has established specific respirator approval standards that manufacturers must meet. Employers must select only NIOSH approved respirators based on the specific types of contaminant hazards present.

**Occupational health provider** – See Physician or other licensed health care professional (PLHCP)

**OR OSHA** – the State of Oregon's Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

**Physician or other licensed health care professional (PLHCP)** – an individual whose legally permitted scope of practice (i.e., license, registration, or certification) allows him or her to independently provide, or be delegated the responsibility to provide, some or all of the health care services required by this section.

**Powered air-purifying respirator (PAPR)** – an air-purifying respirator that uses a blower to force the ambient air through air-purifying elements to the inlet covering.

**Respirator Type** – one of the following: Disposable Face Mask, Air-Purifying Half-Face, Air-Purifying Full-Face, Powered Air-Purifying Respirator, Airline Respirator, and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus.

**SCBA** – Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus; a type of air supplied respirator.

**Service life** – the period of time that a respirator filter, cartridge or sorbent medium provides adequate protection to the wearer.

**User seal check** – an action conducted by the respirator user to determine if the respirator is properly seated to the face.