

## 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 a continuing, effective respiratory protection program is implemented.

**Atmosphere-supplying respirator** – a respirator that supplies the respirator user 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 against gases, vapors, and/or particulates 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.

**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.

**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 employee, 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 off a protocol to qualitatively or quantitatively evaluate the fit of a respirator on an employee.

**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 employee's ability to escape from a dangerous atmosphere.

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**Loose-fitting facepiece** – a respirator inlet covering that is designed to form a partial seal with the face.

**Maximum use concentration (MUC)** – the maximum atmospheric concentration of a hazardous substance from which an employee can be expected to be protected when wearing a respirator, and is determined by the assigned protection factor of the respirator or 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, an MUC must be determined 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.

**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 them to independently provide, or be delegated the responsibility to provide, some or all of the health care services associated with this Plan.

**Positive pressure respirator** – a respirator in which the pressure inside the respiratory inlet covering exceeds the ambient air pressure outside the respirator.

**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.

**Respiratory inlet covering** – that portion of a respirator that forms the protective barrier between the user’s respiratory tract and an air-purifying device or breathing air

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source, or both. It may be a facepiece, helmet, hood, suit, or a mouthpiece respirator with nose clamp.

**Self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA)** – an atmosphere-supplying respirator for which the breathing air source is designed to be carried by the user.

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

**Tight-fitting facepiece** – a respiratory inlet covering that forms a complete seal with the face.

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