

RESPIRATORY PROTECTION

PURPOSE: This policy establishes guidelines to protect UM employees from exposure to dusts, mists, gases, fumes or vapors in hazardous concentrations exceeding accepted standards.

TERMS & DEFINITIONS

- **Respirator:** A respirator is a protective device that covers at a minimum the nose and mouth to guard the wearer against hazardous atmospheres.
- **Hazardous Atmosphere:** A hazardous atmosphere is an atmosphere with insufficient oxygen, or where harmful dusts, fogs, smokes, mists, fumes, gases, vapors, or sprays are present.

POLICY: Each campus shall establish a written respiratory protection program. At a minimum, the program will cover:

- When job specific respiratory protection is required
- Roles and responsibilities
- Communication about use of and risks with respirators
- Respirator selection considerations
- A medical evaluation program when deemed necessary
- Training requirements
- Recordkeeping requirements
- Program management and annual review procedures
- Steps required before employees are required to wear a respirator
- Steps required for voluntary respirator usage (Appendix D/OSHA)
- Fit-testing
- Inspection, cleaning, maintenance and storage

PROCEDURES & PRACTICES: Refer to respiratory protection procedural guide for details. If after reviewing you have any questions, please reach out to EHS for clarification.

Resources:

- 29 CFR 1910.134
- National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)