

Physician or Licensed Healthcare Provider Guidelines for Respirator Medical Clearance

Dear Physician or Licensed Healthcare Provider:

Effective January 2, 2017, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requires documentation of medical clearance prior to respirator use for any individual using a pesticide labelled for respiratory protection.

Rationale: Respirator use can impose both physical and psychological stress on the body, especially the pulmonary and cardiovascular systems. The medical clearance is used to determine if there are medical conditions that would either be aggravated by a respirator or prevent the safe and effective use of a respirator.

To complete medical clearance:

1. The worker should complete a Respirator Medical Evaluation Questionnaire (or complete an equivalent assessment) according to Appendix C (OSHA Respiratory Standard. 1910.134)

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/respiratoryprotection/standards.html>

Section of the questionnaire should be completed are as follows:

Part A Section 1 All respirator users

Part A Section 2, Questions 1-9 All respirator users

Part A Section 2. Questions 10 – 15 Only those that wear a full face piece respirator or
Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)

Part B Health provider discretion

2. The questionnaire should be reviewed by a physician or other licensed health care provider (PLHCP).

3. A follow-up medical examination is required for individuals giving a positive response to any question among questions 1 through 8 in Section 2, Part A of Appendix C or whose initial medical examination demonstrates the need for a follow-up medical examination.

4. The follow-up medical examination shall include any medical tests, consultations, or diagnostic procedures that the PLHCP deems necessary to make a final determination. (Follow up should begin with a conversation with the individual about the positive responses. Further evaluation is typically based on the nature of the positive responses.)

5. Guidance on medical conditions that impact an individual's ability to wear a respirator can be found in the resources listed below.

6. The individual's employer or individual (self-employed) must obtain a written recommendation from the PLHCP on whether the individual is medically able to wear a respirator. The recommendation must identify any limitations on the individual's use of the

respirator as well as the need for follow-up medical evaluations that are needed to assist the PLHCP in making a recommendation. .

For technical assistance, contact:

Dustin Adcock- County Extension Agent
N.C. Cooperative Extension- Stanly County Center
Phone: 704-983-3987
Email: jdadcock@ncsu.edu

For more information, check out these resources:

US Department of Labor OSHA Respiratory Protection, Section VIII, Chapter 2, "VI Medical Evaluation and Conditions" @ https://www.osha.gov/dts/osta/otm/otm_viii/otm_viii_2.html

American Society of Safety Engineers, ANSI/AIHA Z88.6-2006. Respiratory Protection- Respirator Use, Physical Qualifications for Personnel.

<http://www.asse.org/ansi/asse-z88-6-2006-respiratory-protection-respirator-use-physicalqualifications-for-personnel-electronic-copy/>

McLellan, R; Schusler, K. (2000) Guide to the Medical Evaluation for Respirator use. Beverly Farms MA: OEM Press.