

## Voluntary Respirator Use

Calvin College will provide respirators at no charge to employees for voluntary use for the following work processes:

- Employees may wear half-facepiece APRs with P-100 cartridges while working in construction areas. Before a half-facepiece APR with P-100 cartridges is worn by an employee a medical evaluation and fit-test must be performed.
- Employees may wear 3M 9211 or 3M 8211 N-95 Particulate Respirators while working in construction areas or when cleaning dusty areas.
- Employees may wear 3M 9211 N-95 with an exhalation valve while using the One-Step Germicidal Detergent and Deodorant in the West Michigan Regional Lab.
- Employees may wear 3M 8577 P-95 particulate, for relief against nuisance level organic vapors while using solvents, cleaners or paints.
- Employees may wear 3M 8214 N-95 particulate, for relief against nuisance levels of organic vapors or metal fumes produced from welding, brazing, cutting and other operations involving heating of metals.

The EH&S officer will provide all employees who voluntarily choose to wear either of the above respirators with a copy of Appendix D of the standard. See [Appendix C](#) of this document. Employees choosing to wear a half facepiece APR must comply with the procedures for Medical Evaluation, Fit Testing, Respirator Use, Cleaning, Maintenance and Storage.

The EH&S officer shall authorize voluntary use of respiratory protective equipment as requested by all other workers on a case-by-case basis, depending on specific workplace conditions and the results of the medical evaluations.

## Information for Employees using respirators when Not Required under the Standard (Appendix D from the standard)

Respirators are an effective method of protection against designated hazards when properly selected and worn. Respirator use is encouraged, even when exposures are below the exposure limit, to provide an additional level of comfort and protection for workers. However, if a respirator is used improperly or not kept clean, the respirator itself can become a hazard to the worker. Some times, workers may wear respirators to avoid exposures to hazards, even if the amount of hazardous substance does not exceed the limits set by MIOSHA standards. If your employer provides respirators for your voluntary use, or if you provide your own respirator, you need to take certain precautions to be sure that the respirator itself does not present a hazard.

You should do the following:

1. Read and heed all instructions provided by the manufacturer on use, maintenance, cleaning and care and warnings regarding the respirator's limitations.
2. Choose respirators certified for use to protect against the contaminant of concern. NIOSH, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health of the US Department of Health and Human Services, certifies respirators. A label or statement of certification should appear on the respirator or respirator packaging. It will tell you what the respirator is designed for and how much it will protect you.
3. Do not wear your respirator into atmospheres containing contaminants for which your respirator is not designed to protect against. For example, the respirator designed to filter dust particles will not protect you against gases, vapors, or very small solid particles of fumes or smoke.

4. Keep track of your respirator so that you do not mistakenly use someone else's respirator.