

APPENDIX H

RESPIRATOR PROTECTION PROGRAM

1. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Ontario Occupational Health and Safety Act.
- Ontario Asbestos Regulation 278/05 and 279/05.
- Ontario Industrial Establishments Regulation (O.Reg.851).
- “Selection, Use and Care of Respirators”; CSA Standard Z94.4-02.
- National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSH), “NIOSH Guide to Industrial Respiratory Protection: Respirator Decision Logic”.

2. GENERAL ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1 Facilities Manager

Ensure that this program is implemented and maintained.

Designate a qualified person (i.e. one who has the knowledge, experience and training to fulfill the responsibilities outlined in this program) as the Respiratory Protection Program Administrator (RPPA).

2.2 Respiratory Protection Program Administrator

The Facilities Manager shall be designated as the Respiratory Protection Program Administrator (RPPA), and shall provide overall management of this program and be the designated contact to address employee questions.

- Provide overall management of this program, and be the designated contact to address employee questions regarding this program.
- Obtain a copy of the latest version of the CSA Standard “*Selection, Use and Care of Respirators*”.
- Attend 3M Respirator Fit Testing and Training Course, and provide training and fit testing, or hire a Consultant to perform fit testing and respirator training in conjunction with asbestos training.
- Obtain and maintain a 3M Bitrex Fit Respirator Fit Testing Kit if performing fit testing in house.
- Order and/or issue respirators and filters.

2.3 Employees

Use, clean, inspect, maintain and store respirators in accordance with manufacturer’s guidelines and respirator training instructions.

Report any respirator problems or hazards to Facilities Manager.

3. PROGRAM ELEMENTS

3.1 Respirator Selection

Respirators shall not be issued indiscriminately. Respirator selection shall be done in accordance with Regulation 278/05.

Respiratory protection shall be used to protect employees from exposure to asbestos. Although respirator use is optional during Type 1 work, it is KPDSB policy that respiratory protection is *mandatory* for all employees performing Type 1 Work,

All respirators shall be NIOSH-approved.

Where practicable, respirators will be assigned to individual employees for their exclusive use. (CSA Standard).

Prior to fit-testing and respirator use, the employee shall ensure that they are free from any psychological or physiological condition that may preclude him or her from being assigned the use of the selected respirator. This can be done by visiting a general practitioner.

3.2 Fit-Testing

Team Leaders shall ensure that employees required to wear tight-fitting respirators will be fit-tested prior to initial use and every two years thereafter, to ensure that the respirator seals properly. Employees will not be fit-tested if a good seal cannot be obtained. Possible situations that may prevent a good seal include facial hair and physical deformities.

Qualitative fit-testing shall be performed by qualified fit-testers (i.e. those having successfully completed practical training in accordance with CSA Standard) using the BITREX fit-testing method outlined in CSA Standard Z94.4-02. Records of fit-testing shall be maintained by the RPPA.

3.3 Training

The RPPA shall provide respirator training, or shall arrange training. Employees using respirators on a voluntary or mandatory basis shall be included in the training program.

Individuals to be trained, and the content of the training, shall meet the requirements set out in CSA Standard Z94.4-02.

Training certificates and copies of the training materials shall be maintained by the RPPA. Records shall include a list of the employees trained, a description of training, and the training date. Training records shall be maintained for at least the duration of employment of the person trained (CSA Standard Z94.4-02).

3.4 Respirator Use, Cleaning, Inspection, Maintenance and Storage

Prior to assigning an employee to a task that requires the use of a respirator, the Team Leader shall ensure that the employee has completed all the health screening, fit-testing and training required by this program.

Facial hair or stubble that interferes with the seal of the respirator to the face reduces the protection offered by the respirator, and voids the NIOSH certification and the manufacturer's warranty. Employees with beards or stubble at the respirator's sealing edge are not permitted to wear respirators requiring a facial seal (whether they are negative pressure or positive pressure respirators). Any employee who is not clean-shaven at the time a respirator is required shall not be allowed to wear a tight-fitting respirator, even though the person has previously obtained a satisfactory fit when clean-shaven (CSA Standard).

Respirators shall be used, cleaned, inspected, maintained and stored by the employees using them, following the instructions provided in the respirator manufacturer's guidelines, and as discussed and demonstrated in the respirator training program.

Respirator wearers shall inspect face pieces and respirator components prior to use on each day of use.

Only the uses of non-powered half face respirators are included in this program.

3.5 Annual Review

The program shall be evaluated by the RPPA, in consultation with the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee, on an annual basis.

If deficiencies in the program are identified through the Checklist, the RPPA shall be responsible for ensuring that remedial measures are developed, communicated and implemented. A record of the evaluation and any corrective actions will be kept on file by the RPPA.

3.6 Respirator Protection Factors and Concentration of Airborne Fibre

The Occupational Exposure Level (OEL) for airborne fibres that a worker is typically allowed to inhale over an 8 hour period is 0.1 fibres/mL (MOL Reg. 279/05, NIOSH REL, the US OSHA PEL and the ACGIH TLV). Typically, respirator protection factors accepted by the MOL (other provinces and the CSA are different) are as follows:

Non-powered half face	10 RPF
PAPR	50 RPF
Pressure Demand	1,000 to 10,000 RPF

Based on these, the maximum allowable airborne concentration while wearing a respirator would be (Protection factor x OEL of 0.1 f/mL):

Non-powered half face	1 fibre/cc.
PAPR	5 fibres/cc.
Pressure Demand	100 fibres/cc (based on 1000 RPF).