

It is the intent of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) to provide its employees with a safe and healthy work environment. This is accomplished as much as possible through the use of accepted engineering and/or administrative controls. When these controls are not feasible or inadequate, personal protective equipment is provided (respirators) to reduce employee exposure to concentrations of contaminants that will be non-injurious to most individuals. Safe concentration limits were established as standards by regulatory and/or professional organizations.

All business units whose employees are required to wear a respirator must follow the UIUC Respiratory Protection Policy and implement their own respirator protection program. This requirement is based on the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Respiratory Protection Standard (29 CFR 1910.134), which is enforced by the State of Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL).

Before any campus unit may require an employee to wear a respirator the following items must be completed:

- A **hazard evaluation** must be conducted to ascertain the respiratory hazard and determine the method(s) of control (engineering, administrative, and/or personal protection).
 - Contact the Division of Safety and Compliance to conduct a hazard evaluation.
- Develop a **written program**.
 - A sample program is contained in the UIUC Respiratory Protection Policy.
 - Voluntary usage of a filtering facepiece respirator (dust mask) does not require a written respirator program.
- A **medical evaluation** must be obtained for each employee expected to wear a respirator.
 - A procedure for obtaining medical clearance is contained within the Respiratory Protection Program.
 - Initial medical clearance is required before being fit into a respirator.
 - Recertification is according to an age-graded scale (see below) and when there is a change in medical or physical conditions (medical fitness, problems noticed during fit testing, etc.).

<u>Light to Moderate Work</u>		<u>Strenuous Work with SCBA</u>
<35yrs	Every 5 years	Every 3 years
35-45yrs	Every 2 years	Every 1.5 years
>45yrs	Every year	Every year
- Attend **training**
 - Contact the Division of Safety and Compliance to conduct or refer your business unit for training. Training is an annual requirement per OSHA.
- **Fit test** into a specific mask.
 - Fit testing is designed to check that a specific mask (brand, size, type, etc.) seals properly to protect the employee against respiratory hazards.
 - Contact the Division of Safety and Compliance to conduct or refer your business unit for fit testing. Fit testing is an annual requirement per OSHA.

For additional information please call the Division of Safety and Compliance at (217) 265-9828 or email at safetyandcompliance@illinois.edu.