



How do I identify and evaluate worksite hazards?

Conduct a worksite hazard analysis.

A hazard analysis is a decision-making process that results in determining if a hazard or potential hazard is present. It should focus on worksite chemicals, process equipment, production material and by-products, and the capabilities, limitations, and possible failures of the process.

Determine the state and physical form of the hazard: solid, liquid, or gas. Select appropriate respiratory protection based on the hazard. Develop procedures for respiratory use in routine situations and emergencies.

Personal monitoring is the most accurate way to obtain worker exposure information. To obtain employee exposure, you must consider the worksite atmosphere "immediately dangerous

SERVICES AVAILABLE

Safety Evaluation
Industrial Hygiene Sampling
Management Training
Saw Mill Safety Training
Program Evaluation
Thermographic Imaging

Respiratory Protection Plan

A respiratory protection plan can be the difference between a healthy workforce and a workforce that is exposed to unseen danger. Respiratory protection though not your first choice in Hazard Identification may actually be your most important. Why is that? Because airborne hazards are often unseen and do not always cause immediate sensation and that's why it is so important to protect people from something they cannot see or feel. Think about all the studies that have been conducted over the years about specific products that we now know are inherently bad for our bodies. This law (1910.134) is aimed at using those facts to protect our bodies from these hazards we spent all those years figuring out. For example Asbestos, think about how many lives that we could have saved or improved had information been available in the years where workers continually exposed themselves thinking this was a harmless substance. So what does the law say?



OSHA 1910.134 says;

Employers must implement a comprehensive written respiratory program when employees are exposed or potentially exposed to hazardous gases or vapors, dust, fumes, mists, other airborne particles and infectious agents, or insufficient levels of oxygen. Respiratory protection is required when control of the hazard is not feasible through engineering controls or while controls are being instituted. An effective respiratory protection program consists of worksite-specific procedures and policies that address all respiratory-protection elements as required by 1910.134, Respiratory Protection. Employers must provide respirators, training, and medical evaluations at no cost to employees.

Evaluations of the workplace are necessary to ensure that the written respiratory protection program is being properly implemented. This includes consulting with employees to ensure that they are using the respirators properly. Evaluations shall be conducted as necessary to ensure that the provisions of the current written program are being effectively implemented and that it continues to be effective. (do employees know how to use a respirator and are they actually using them)

What does all this mean in short? It means that you as employers, manager and supervisors have the duty of knowing about all hazards in the work environment and respiratory protection is as important as seatbelts, guarding and Lockout tagout. If you have any questions first step is to read the MSDS on the product or go to OSHA or NIOSH websites and search for any information about your airborne products. If you do this as minimum you will start down the path of protection of our most important resource, Our Employees!

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SAFETY TRAINING SIGN-IN SHEET

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