

## Voluntary Use Handout

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**DIRECTIONS:** Please have employee sign the bottom of this form. Once employee has signed give a copy to the employee and place original in the Respiratory Protection Program binder.

### Information for Employees Using Respirators When Not Required Under the Standard

1. Appendix D to §5144 Respiratory Protection requires this information to be provided to employees wishing to use respirators when not required.
2. Respirators are an effective method of protection against designated hazards when properly selected and worn.
3. Respirator use is encouraged even when exposures are below the exposure limit, to provide an additional level of comfort and protection for workers.
4. However, if a respirator is used improperly or not kept clean, the respirator itself can become a hazard to the worker.
5. Sometimes, workers may wear respirators to avoid exposures to hazards, even if the amount of hazardous substance does not exceed the limits set by CAL-OSHA standards.
6. 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.
7. You should read and heed all instructions provided by the manufacturer on use, maintenance, cleaning and care, and warnings regarding the respirators limitations.
8. You should choose respirators certified for use to protect against the contaminant of concern.
  - a. NIOSH, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, certifies respirators.
  - b. A label or statement of certification should appear on the respirator or respirator packaging.
  - c. It will tell you what the respirator is designed for and how much it will protect you.
9. You should not wear your respirator into atmospheres containing contaminants for which your respirator is not designated to protect against.
  - a. For example, a respirator designed to filter dust particles will not protect you against gases, vapors or very small solid particles of fumes or smoke.
10. You should keep track of your respirator so that you do not mistakenly use someone else's respirator.

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EMPLOYEE SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_