



Approved for Release
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Date

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

HUMAN RESOURCES (HR) BULLETIN # 019, FY06, 29 CFR 1910.134

SUBJECT: Respiratory Protection Program

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon release of this HR Bulletin

EXPIRATION DATE: None

MODIFIES: U. S. Department of Commerce Occupational Safety and Health Manual, Chapter 14 Respiratory Protection

BACKGROUND: When respiratory protection equipment is used, whether required by Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulation or used by employees on a voluntary basis, specific requirements must be met and procedures followed. Qualified occupational safety and health (OSH) professionals must be involved to ensure compliance with regulations as well as standard industry practices. Qualified OSH professionals include industrial hygienists certified as a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene, a safety professional certified as a Certified Safety Professional (CSP) by the Board of Certified Safety Professionals or a Certified Biological Safety Professional (CBSP) certified by the American Biological Safety Association. The Department has qualified OSH professionals on staff both at the Department and bureau levels to assist in this process and their expertise should be utilized.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this HR Bulletin is to ensure appropriate hazard assessments are performed and adequate respiratory protection is selected and supplied to the employees of the Department.

APPLICABILITY: This HR Bulletin applies to all Department bureaus, agencies, offices, operating units, and other components.

CHANGES: The November 2000 edition of the Department Occupational Safety and Health Manual, Chapter 14, Respiratory Protection, does not require the involvement of qualified OSH professionals for the selection, approval and use of respiratory equipment. These processes shall now require the approval of a qualified OSH professional. Bureaus and offices shall no longer select and distribute respiratory protection equipment without the approval of a qualified OSH professional.

PROCEDURES: If a bureau, office, or any other Department organization is pursuing the use of respiratory protection equipment, escape masks, or hoods, it shall contact its servicing OSH office or safety officer for a hazard assessment and equipment selection approval. A list of bureau safety officers can be found at http://ohrm.os.doc.gov/Safety_and_Health/DEV01_000148.html or by calling the Department Office of Occupational Safety and Health (OOSH) on 202-482-4935. If an organization does not have a qualified OSH professional, OOSH will provide assistance.

REFERENCES: 29 CFR 1910.134, U. S. Department of Commerce Occupational Safety and Health Manual, Chapter 14 Respiratory Protection

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