

TEN COMMON RESPIRATORY PROTECTION PROGRAM DEFICIENCIES

1. Failure to designate a qualified program administrator
2. The written respiratory protection program does not have work-site specific procedures. Often the program does not identify the air contaminant(s) or, the specific respirator brand, model, and filter/cartridge .
3. The employer has not evaluated the respiratory hazard to determine a reasonable estimate of employee exposures. This would most likely involve air monitoring.
4. Employees have not been medically evaluated to determine if they are physically fit to wear the respirator and perform the work.
5. Employees are wearing a non-NIOSH certified respirator such as a comfort mask, or other type of single strap mask.
6. Employees have not been fit tested with the respirator that they are wearing. The written program does not identify the fit test method.
7. Respiratory protection is not being stored in a clean sanitary environment. It is often stored in a tool box or openly in the work area.
8. Respiratory protection has not been cleaned and is dirty.
9. The respiratory protection has missing parts, such as missing inhalation or exhalation valves.
10. Employees, wearing respiratory protection, are not clean shaven.