RESPIRATORY PROTECTION POLICY

Policy Statement

It is the policy of the university to support the protection of employees from respiratory injury as a result of working with harmful dusts, fumes, gases, vapors, and other hazardous airborne substances, and to promote respiratory safety through the use of engineering controls, administrative controls, and personal protective equipment as detailed in the university’s Respiratory Protection Program.

Reason for Policy/Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to support the protection of employees from respiratory hazards, injuries, and illnesses, and to comply with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations (29 C.F.R. § 1910.134).

Who Needs to Know This Policy

Faculty, staff and students

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Policy/Procedures

OSHA sets Permissible Exposure Limits (PELs) for respiratory hazards. PELs are regulatory limits on the amount or concentration of a substance in the air. If levels above the PEL are detected the exposure must be reduced to the acceptable PEL.

The Office of Health and Safety has developed procedures and guidelines in the Respiratory Protection Program to assist in protecting employees from respiratory hazards in accordance with OSHA standards and best practices.

Respirator requirements are dependent upon the type of operations and the toxicity and concentration of the substances in use. All respirator use is assessed on a case-by-case basis. The Office of Health and Safety conducts hazard assessments to determine whether respirators are required for the health and safety of faculty and staff.

If the Office of Health and Safety determines that a respirator is mandatory, the employee must obtain a medical evaluation and a fit test at the university’s expense prior to using the respirator. If an employee chooses to voluntarily wear an approved respirator that is not required by the Office of Health and Safety, the employee must also receive a medical evaluation and a fit test prior to respirator use. Medical evaluations for voluntary use of a respirator must be obtained at the employee’s expense.

The Office of Health and Safety coordinates annual medical evaluations, fit testing, and respirator training. Academic departments should contact the Office of Health and Safety with regard to all matters concerning respiratory protection to include equipment, information, and training for students.

Departments are responsible for properly inspecting, maintaining, cleaning, disinfecting, and storing all respirators after each use in accordance with Office of Health and Safety training.

Website Address for This Policy

GW University Policies

Contacts

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory Protection</td>
<td>Health and Safety</td>
<td>202-994-4347</td>
<td><a href="mailto:safety@gwu.edu">safety@gwu.edu</a></td>
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Related Information

Respiratory Protection Program
OSHA Respiratory Protection Regulations, 29 C.F.R. § 1910.134

Who Approved This Policy

Louis H. Katz, Executive Vice President and Treasurer
Beth Nolan, Senior Vice President and General Counsel

History/Revision Dates

Origination Date: 1994
Last Amended Date: May 1, 2006
Next Review Date: February 31, 2016