

NCS Form 015:
Respirator Inspection Guidelines and Checklist

Disposable Respirators

Before use check for:

- a. Holes in the filter or damage to sorbent such as loose charcoal granules.
- b. Straps for elasticity and deterioration.
- c. Metal nose clip for rust or deterioration.

Air Purifying Respirators

1. Before use check:

- a. Rubber face piece for pliability of rubber, deterioration, and cracks, tears, or holes.
- b. Straps for breaks, tears, loss of elasticity, broken attachment snaps, and proper tightness.
- c. Valves (exhalation and inhalation) for holes, crimping, cracks, and dirt.
- d. Filters, cartridges and canister for dents, corrosion, and expiration dates.
- e. Physical distortion of shape from improper storage.

2. After Cleaning:

- a. Examine the face piece for:
 - 1) Dirt/contamination
 - 2) Cracks, tears, or holes
 - 3) Inflexibility of rubber face piece (stretch and knead to restore flexibility).
 - 4) Cracked or badly scratched lenses in full face piece.
 - 5) Incorrectly mounted full-face piece lenses and broken or missing mounting clips.
 - 6) Cracked or broken air-purifying cartridge receptacle(s), badly worn threads, or missing gasket(s), if required.
- b. Examine the head straps or head harness for:
 - 1) Breaks
 - 2) Loss of elasticity
 - 3) Broken or malfunctioning buckles and attachments.
 - 4) Excessively worn serrations on head harness, which might permit slippage.
- c. Examine the exhalation valve for the following after removing its cover.
 - 1) Foreign material, such as detergent residue, dust particles, etc., under the valve seat.
 - 2) Cracks, tears, or distortion in the valve material.
 - 3) Improper insertion of the valve body, particularly in the sealing surface.
 - 4) Cracks, breaks, or chips in the valve body, particularly in the sealing surface.
 - 5) Missing or defective valve cover.
 - 6) Improper installation of the valve in the valve body.
- d. Examine the cartridge for:
 - 1) Incorrect cartridge for the hazard.
 - 2) Incorrect installation, loose connections, missing or worn gasket, or cross threading in the holder.
 - 3) Expired shelf life date.
 - 4) Cracks or dents in the outside case of the filter or cartridge.
- e. If the device has a corrugated breathing tube, examine it for:
 - 1) Broken or missing end connectors or hose clamps.
 - 2) Deterioration, determined by stretching the tube and looking for cracks.

Airline Respiratory Protection

1. Before Use Inspection
 - a. Check the face piece for cracks and deterioration. Make sure the face piece is clean and is in a clean plastic bag.
 - b. Check the fitting between the face piece and the screwed-on demand regulator to ensure that it is hand tight.
 - c. Examine the hood for rips and tears, seam integrity, etc.
 - d. Check hose for cracks and cuts and other signs of deterioration. Ensure that the lock type fitting is operable. Airline hoses shall be stored with the ends fastened together.

2. After Use Inspection
 - a. Check breathing air hose by:
 - Washing the hose exterior.
 - Examine the condition of quick-disconnect fittings.
 - Leak check performed by applying pressure via breathing air manifold (105 psig).
 - Hose cleared of internal obstructions.
 - Hose is treated with disinfectant and packaged.
 - b. Facepieces
 - The after-use inspection is primarily a functional inspection to detect obvious defects and determine general condition of the mask.
 - Inhalation and exhalation valves are disassembled, washed, disinfected, inspected, and reassembled.
 - Stretching the head strap to test for deterioration (dry rotting) or loss of elasticity.
 - Lens checked for visibility condition (cracks, scuffs, etc.), and for proper sealing around edge.

3. Monthly visual inspection is made to determine the following:
 - a. Plastic bag containing face piece is free of perforations.
 - b. Unit is complete and hose, harness and facepiece are ready for use.