

## PROCEDURES FOR RESPIRATOR CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Respiratory protection equipment must always be inspected prior to use. The following inspection table highlights the key components of a respirator and the conditions that would require repair before use:

<b>INSPECTION TABLE</b>	
<b><i>IF ANY OF THE DEFECTS LISTED BELOW ARE FOUND, HAVE THE RESPIRATOR REPAIRED BEFORE USE.</i></b>	
<b>COMPONENT</b>	<b>LOOK FOR</b>
<b>For Filtering Facepieces:</b>	
FACEPIECE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cuts, gouges, punctures,</li> <li>2. Distortions of the sealing flange.</li> <li>3. Tears or nicks in the sealing area.</li> <li>4. Deterioration from age, heat, or contamination.</li> <li>5. If applicable, exhalation valve flaps are not in place, in poor condition, and not secure.</li> </ol>
<b>For Half-Face Assemblies:</b>	
FACEPIECE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cuts, gouges, punctures,</li> <li>2. Distortions of the sealing flange.</li> <li>3. Tears or nicks in the sealing area.</li> <li>4. Deterioration from age, heat, or contamination.</li> <li>5. Exhalation valve flaps are not in place, in poor condition, and not secure.</li> </ol>
<b>For Full-Face Assemblies:</b>	
FACEPIECE LENS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nicks, scratches, or abrasions which could impair visibility.</li> <li>2. Deep gouges or cracks which could reduce impact resistance.</li> <li>3. Anti-fog coating in need of replacement.</li> </ol>
FACEPIECE RIMS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Deformed, cracked, or broken</li> <li>2. Loose screws. Do not overtighten.</li> </ol>
FACEPIECE SKIRT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cuts, gouges, or punctures.</li> <li>2. Tears or nicks in the sealing area.</li> <li>3. Deterioration from age, heat, or contamination</li> </ol>
FACEPIECE HEADSTRAP	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Abrasions or nicks.</li> <li>2. Deterioration from age, heat, or contamination.</li> </ol>
FACEPIECE BUCKLES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Crushed, bent, or corroded.</li> <li>2. Damaged or loose rivets.</li> </ol>
FACEPIECE INLET NOZZLE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Loose cover screws.</li> <li>2. Heat or impact damage.</li> <li>3. Nicks, cracks, or dents in the exhalation valve seat.</li> <li>4. Nicks, cracks, tears, or creases in the exhalation valve.</li> <li>5. Sticking exhalation valve. Exhale a few times to test. The valve must be close after each exhalation. Valves that fail to close must be replaced.</li> </ol>
SPEAKING DIAPHRAGM	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Holes or tears. Do not remove to inspect</li> </ol>

## PROCEDURES FOR CLEANING RESPIRATORS

A. Remove filters, cartridges, or canisters. Disassemble facepieces by removing speaking diaphragms, demand and pressure-demand valve assemblies, hoses, or any components recommended by the manufacturer. Discard or repair any defective parts.

B. Wash components in warm (43 deg. C [110 deg. F] maximum) water with a mild detergent or with a cleaner recommended by the manufacturer. A stiff bristle (not wire) brush may be used to facilitate the removal of dirt.

C. Rinse components thoroughly in clean, warm (43 deg. C [110 deg. F] maximum), preferably running water. Drain.

D. When the cleaner used does not contain a disinfecting agent, respirator components should be immersed for two minutes in one of the following:

1. Hypochlorite solution (50 ppm of chlorine) made by adding approximately one milliliter of laundry bleach to one liter of water at 43 deg. C (110 deg. F); or,

2. Aqueous solution of iodine (50 ppm iodine) made by adding approximately 0.8 milliliters of tincture of iodine (6-8 grams ammonium and/or potassium iodide/100 cc of 45% alcohol) to one liter of water at 43 deg. C (110 deg. F); or,

3. Other commercially available cleansers of equivalent disinfectant quality when used as directed, if their use is recommended or approved by the respirator manufacturer.

E. Rinse components thoroughly in clean, warm (43 deg. C [110 deg. F] maximum), preferably running water. Drain. The importance of thorough rinsing cannot be overemphasized. Detergents or disinfectants that dry on facepieces may result in dermatitis. In addition, some disinfectants may cause deterioration of rubber or corrosion of metal parts if not completely removed.

F. Components should be hand-dried with a clean lint-free cloth or air-dried.

G. Reassemble facepiece, replacing filters, cartridges, and canisters where necessary.

H. Test the respirator to ensure that all components work properly.

## **STORAGE**

Respiratory protection equipment must be stored in a clean, dry area, preferably away from the respirator use area. Your facepiece must be kept in the storage bag provided to you at the time of issue. Store the rubber and elastomeric parts in a manner which will prevent them from taking an abnormal set. Store location must be away from excessive heat, moisture, contaminating gaseous substances, or airborne particulates.