

Occupational Health & Safety System	
OHS Standards	Number: WP-11
Respiratory Protection	

**PREAMBLE:**

A respiratory protection program is required to ensure the proper education of workers in the use of respiratory protection as a means to control respiratory hazards that may exist.

The respiratory protection program lays out standard operating procedures to ensure the protection of all employees from respiratory hazards through proper selection and use of respirators. Algonquin College will follow the Occupational Health and Safety Act, O.Reg.570/82, s. 5. and CSA Standard Z94.4-93 or (current Standard). Under the Occupational Health and Safety Act and the CSA Standard, whenever respirators are used in a workplace, there must be a respiratory protection program in place.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

1. A written respiratory program, including assignment of individual responsibility, accountability, and authority for required activities, is administered by the Occupational Health & Safety section.
2. The respiratory Protection Program shall include information relating to the following areas:
  - Written standard operating procedures governing the selection and use of respirators shall be maintained.
  - Respirator selection (NIOSH approved and certified models) on the basis of hazards to which the worker is exposed.
  - Medical examinations of workers to determine whether or not they may be assigned an activity where negative pressure respiratory protection is required.
  - Employee training in the proper use and limitations of respirators (as well as a way to evaluate the skill and knowledge obtained by the worker through training).
  - Respirator fit testing.
  - Regular cleaning and disinfecting of respirators.
  - Routine inspection of respirators during cleaning, and at least once a month and after each use for those respirators designated for emergency use.
  - Storage of respirators in convenient, clean, and sanitary locations.

- Surveillance of work area conditions and degree of employee exposure (e.g., through air monitoring).
- Regular inspection and evaluation of the continued effectiveness of the respirator program.