



## Quick Reference Guide: Air-Purifying Non-Powered Elastomeric Respirators

### Prior to wearing your respirator

- Ensure that you have been trained and fit-tested within the last 2 years
- Ensure you are clean-shaven where the respirator forms a seal with your face
- Ensure that you are wearing the respirator (same manufacturer, model and size) that you have been successfully fit-tested with
- Review the manufacturer's instructions for your specific respirator

### Inspection

- Inspect the different components (face piece, harness, and cartridges/filters) before each use
- Check straps for loss of elasticity and signs of wear such as cracking, tears, and loose or broken buckles
- Inspect the face piece for cracks, holes, tears and distortion
- Check the input and output valves for missing or worn valve covers, cracks, and dirt
- Report any defects or damage to your supervisor and have them repaired by a qualified person or replace your respirator with a new one.

### Putting on your elastomeric respirator

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for your specific respirator
- Ensure any adjustments to the respirator are performed away from the contaminated work area



*1. Hold the mask over your nose and chin. Position the head strap above your ears and over the crown of your head, and adjust it.*



*2. Position the neck strap below your ears and around your neck.*



*3. Fasten the clasp of the neck strap.*



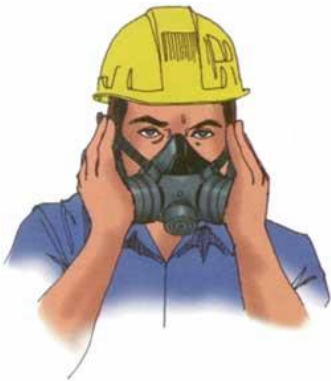
*4. Adjust all the straps equally on both sides of the respirator.*



## Seal/Field Checks

- Seal/field checks using both the negative and positive pressure methods must be performed **every** time you put on a respirator

### Negative Pressure Check



- Cover the cartridges or filters with your hands and breathe in slightly to create a vacuum
- Hold for a few seconds
- Feel for any leakage around the seal of the respirator
- If leakage is detected, make adjustments and repeat the seal check until the fit is satisfactory

### Positive Pressure Check



- Cover the exhalation valve with your hand and gently exhale. Do not exhale too forcefully as this may break the seal.
- Hold for a few seconds
- Feel for any leakage around the seal of the respirator
- If leakage is detected, make adjustments and repeat the seal check until the fit is satisfactory

## Cleaning your elastomeric respirator

- Respirators should be cleaned and disinfected after use on each shift or more often if necessary, if they are used exclusively by one worker.
- They must be cleaned and disinfected after each use if they are used by more than one worker.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for your specific respirator.

- Remove the filters or cartridges as they must not get wet or damp
- Disassemble the respirator
- Discard or repair any defective parts
- Wash with soap and water
- Rinse well with clean, warm water to remove any soap residue from the respirator. Residual soap left on the face piece can cause skin irritation.
- Allow the respirator components to air dry or dry with a cloth
- Re-assemble the respirator, making sure all pieces, especially the valves and gaskets, are in their correct positions.
- Re-attach filters or cartridges.



Reference: WorkSafeBC publication *Breathe Safer*. [www.worksafebc.com](http://www.worksafebc.com)