

Document Voluntary Dust Mask Usage Policy	Published 4/13/2023	Valid for Wisconsin Rapids
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Purpose

Respirators are an effective method of protection against designated hazards when properly selected and worn. Respirator use is encouraged, even when exposures are below the acceptable exposure limits, to provide an additional level of comfort and protection for workers. However, if a respirator is used improperly or not kept clean, the respirator itself can become a hazard to the worker.

Execution

Employees may wear a dust mask to avoid exposures to hazards, even though the amount of the hazardous substance does not exceed the limits set by OSHA standards. The WR Mill will provide dust masks for your voluntary use.

The following information is provided as precautions to be sure that the dust mask respirator itself does not present a hazard.

1. Read and follow all instructions provided by the manufacturer on the use, maintenance, cleaning, care, and warnings regarding the dust mask respirator limitations.
2. A dust mask respirator is certified for use to protect against nuisance quantities of dusts and mists only. NIOSH, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services certifies respirators. A label or statement of certification should appear on the dust mask respirator or packaging. It will tell you what the respirator is designed for and at which level of protection it provides.
3. Do not wear your dust mask respirator into atmospheres containing contaminants for which it is not designed to protect against. For example, a dust mask respirator is designed to filter dust particles and will not protect you against gases, vapors, or very small solid particles of fumes or smoke.
4. Keep track of your dust mask so that you do not mistakenly use someone else's dust mask respirator.

General

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