

Chemicals

Work processes and work locations can present health hazards to you if you do not understand or apply standard operating procedures. Chemical splashes may cause immediate danger to the skin and eyes. Inhalation of some chemicals may result in a delay or a cumulative effect.

In order to be fully protected, you must become as knowledgeable as possible of the potential health hazards of the chemicals you are using or handling, and be constantly aware of your actions.

Identifying labels and applicable precautionary measures are normally found with all chemicals and hazardous materials: Movement of chemicals throughout buildings must be done using approved containers. No chemicals will be permitted on passenger elevators due to the confined area problems and governmental regulations.

Employees using or handling chemicals should be especially vigilant of their daily hygiene in order to prevent skin dermatitis. Frequent use of soap and water will generally eliminate all dermatitis to those exposed to chemicals and oils. Good personal hygiene, good personal habits, and good housekeeping are the three most important protective barriers against chemical hazards and is everyone's responsibility.

Ensure your company has a Hazard Communications Program meeting Federal standards if chemicals are used in your workplace.

Noise

Exposure to excessive noise can cause a gradual decay in hearing ability. Advancements are being made in the reduction of noise, but there are a few processes and machines where the noise is above our safety standards. Employees working in these areas will be required to wear personal protective equipment when directed by their supervisor.

Hearing protection must be worn when there is a possibility of hearing damage. This occurs when there is continuous exposure to certain noise levels or exposure to loud impulse or impact noise. When employees are exposed to noise over 85 dBA (decibels) for more than eight hours, 95 dBA for over 4 hours, 100 dBA for over 2 hours or 105dBA for over 1 hour, proper ear protection must be worn.

If normal conversation can be understood about two feet away, the noise level is probably less than 85 dBA.

The Safety Office will identify all areas where the noise level is above 85 dBA. You must wear proper protective hearing devices when in these areas.

Ensure your company has a hearing conservation program if protective devices are needed to be worn.

Exhaust Ventilation

Exhaust systems, when provided at the work location, shall be used rather than using personal protective equipment

When an exhaust system does not provide adequate protection, other protective means, such as an approved respirator, shall be used in addition to, or instead of, the exhaust system until adequate protection may be implemented. Report any problems with exhaust systems (clogged filters, decreased volume of air movement, etc.) immediately to your supervisor.

Where various types of respirators are needed, care must be taken in proper selection. The respirator must provide adequate protection against the anticipated hazard. Whenever there is doubt, the device providing greater protection must be used. The supervisor shall select the respiratory protection adequate for the work to be accomplished with the approval of the safety office. Respirators cannot be used unless you have been trained in its use and have been physically qualified to do so by the medical or safety department.

Types of respirators used may include the following:

1. Air Purifying Respirator
 - a. For dusts (various type filters)
 - b. For gases and vapors
 - c) Multi-purpose
2. Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus
 - a) Pressure demand type
 - a. Continuous flow type
3. Hose Mask with Blower

- When respirators are provided for a particular work activity, they shall be used.
- When using a respirator, follow the manufacturer's instructions or the specific instructions of the supervisor.

Ensure your company has a formal respirator program if respirators are needed to be worn.