

Appendix D Training
(Voluntary Respirator Use)

Dust masks are frequently worn by employees. Dust masks are considered respirators. For dust masks with two straps, employees need to understand the following information. Respirators with two straps may lead an employee to believe a more substantial respirator is more effective protection against the contaminant to which the employee is exposed. This belief may mislead the employee into using the dust mask for health hazards the dust mask will not protect against.

- 1. Be sure to read all instructions that accompany the respirator (dust mask) regarding use, maintenance, cleaning and care and the warnings regarding the respirator's limitations.*
- 2. Choose respirators certified for use to protect against the contaminant of concern. NIOSH (National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health) certifies respirators. A label or statement of certification should be on the respirator or respirator packaging. This statement will tell you what the respirator is designed for and how much it will protect you.*
- 3. Do not wear respirators into atmospheres containing contaminants for which the respirator is not designed to protect against. For example, a respirator designed to filter dust particles will not protect you against gases, vapors or very small solid particles of fumes or smoke.*
- 4. Keep track of your respirator so that you do not mistakenly use someone else's respirator. Many diseases and illnesses are airborne and can be transferred by using someone else's respirator. Tuberculosis, pneumonia, cold, flu, strep throat, etc. are all examples of illnesses that can be transferred via a respirator.*

Employee Signature: _____

Date: _____