



Obtaining Medical Clearance

There are several options for completing medical clearance including the following:

- Complete an OSHA medical questionnaire (available at https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=9783) and have it reviewed by your physician or licensed healthcare professional (LHCP). To ensure that the physician completes the medical clearance appropriately, please provide them with the attached 'Physician or Licensed Healthcare Provider: Guidelines for Respirator Medical Clearance' document.
- Check with physicians' offices, urgent care facilities, occupational health clinics or hospitals to determine whether or not they can provide medical clearance services. A list of providers in North Carolina, Virginia and South Carolina is available by calling the NC Agromedicine Institute at 252.744.1008.
- Complete an on-line medical questionnaire at one of the websites below. Print out a copy of the medical clearance once received. Providers that offer on-line medical clearances:

www.resptest.com (scroll down to single clearance)

www.respexam.com

<https://www.respclearance.com/>

If on-line medical clearance is denied, you will need to follow-up with a local physician or licensed healthcare provider for further evaluation.

Note: Although on-line medical clearances meet EPA's requirement, caution should be taken in only obtaining an on-line clearance. An individual could have a condition (e.g., high blood pressure, asthma, heart condition, etc.) that could cause them to be unsafe when using a respirator that might only be detected by a hands-on medical evaluation.

Physician or Licensed Healthcare Provider Guidelines for Respirator Medical Clearance

Dear Physician or Licensed Healthcare Provider:

Effective January 2, 2017, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requires documentation of medical clearance prior to respirator use for any individual using a pesticide labelled for respiratory protection.

Rationale: Respirator use can impose both physical and psychological stress on the body, especially the pulmonary and cardiovascular systems. The medical clearance is used to determine if there are medical conditions that would either be aggravated by a respirator or prevent the safe and effective use of a respirator.

To complete medical clearance:

1. The worker should complete a **Respirator Medical Evaluation Questionnaire** (or complete an equivalent assessment) according to Appendix C (OSHA Respiratory Standard. 1910.134)
<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/respiratoryprotection/standards.html>

Section of the questionnaire should be completed are as follows:

Part A Section 1	All respirator users
Part A Section 2, Questions 1-9	All respirator users
Part A Section 2. Questions 10 – 15	Only those that wear a full face piece respirator or Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)
Part B	Health provider discretion

2. The questionnaire should be reviewed by a physician or other licensed health care provider (PLHCP).
3. A follow-up medical examination is required for individuals giving a positive response to any question among questions 1 through 8 in Section 2, Part A of Appendix C or whose initial medical examination demonstrates the need for a follow-up medical examination.

4. The follow-up medical examination shall include any medical tests, consultations, or diagnostic procedures that the PLHCP deems necessary to make a final determination.

(Follow up should begin with a conversation with the individual about the positive responses. Further evaluation is typically based on the nature of the positive responses.)

5. Guidance on medical conditions that impact an individual's ability to wear a respirator can be found in the resources listed below.
6. The individual's employer must obtain a written recommendation from the PLHCP on whether the individual is medically able to wear a respirator. The recommendation must identify any limitations on the individual's use of the respirator as well as the need for follow-up medical evaluations that are needed to assist the PLHCP in making a recommendation. A copy of the written recommendation (Medical Clearance form) must be provided to the worker and their employer.

For technical assistance, contact:

NC Agromedicine Institute

Phone: 252.744.1008

Email: tutorr@ecu.edu or wilburnj15@ecu.edu

For more information, check out these resources:

US Department of Labor OSHA Respiratory Protection, Section VIII, Chapter 2, "VI Medical Evaluation and Conditions" @ https://www.osha.gov/dts/osta/otm/otm_viii/otm_viii_2.html

American Society of Safety Engineers, ANSI/AIHA Z88.6-2006. Respiratory Protection-Respirator Use, Physical Qualifications for Personnel.

<http://www.asse.org/ansi/asse-z88-6-2006-respiratory-protection-respirator-use-physical-qualifications-for-personnel-electronic-copy/>

McLellan, R; Schusler, K. (2000) Guide to the Medical Evaluation for Respirator use. Beverly Farms MA: OEM Press.