

Appendix B-2 to 437-004-1041, Respiratory Protection – Respirator Cleaning Procedures (Mandatory)

These are general procedures for cleaning respirators. You may also use the manufacturer's recommendations if they meet the objectives of these procedures to prevent harm to the user and/or damage to the respirator.

I. Procedures for Cleaning Respirators

- (A) Remove filters, cartridges, or canisters. Disassemble face pieces by removing speaking diaphragms, demand and pressure-demand valve assemblies, hoses, or any components recommended by the manufacturer. Discard or repair any defective parts.
- (B) Wash components in warm (43 degrees C. [110 degrees F.] maximum) water with a mild detergent or with a cleaner recommended by the manufacturer. A stiff bristle (not wire) brush may be used to facilitate the removal of dirt.
- (C) Rinse components thoroughly in clean, warm (43 degrees C. [110 degrees F.] maximum), preferably running water. Drain.
 - (1) When the cleaner does not contain a disinfecting agent, immerse respirator components for 2 minutes in one of the following:
 - (2) Hypochlorite solution (50 ppm of chlorine) of approximately one-milliliter of laundry bleach and one liter of water at 43 degrees C. (110 degrees F.); or,
 - (3) Aqueous solution of iodine (50 ppm iodine) of approximately 0.8 milliliters of tincture of iodine (6-8 grams ammonium and/or potassium iodide/100 cc of 45 percent alcohol) to one liter of water at 43 degrees C. (110 degrees F.); or,
- (D) Other commercially available cleansers of equivalent disinfectant quality, if the respirator manufacturer recommends their use.
- (E) Rinse components thoroughly in clean, warm (43 degrees C. [110 degrees F.] maximum), preferably running water. Drain. Thorough rinsing is extremely important. Detergents or disinfectants that dry on face pieces may cause dermatitis. In addition, some disinfectants may cause deterioration of rubber or corrosion of metal parts if not completely removed.
- (F) Components should be hand-dried with a clean lint-free cloth or air-dried.
- (G) Reassemble face piece, replacing filters, cartridges, and canisters where necessary.
- (H) Test the respirator to ensure that all components work properly.