

# Information About Respirator Selection and Classification

Use with Chapter 296-842 WAC, Respirators

This tool provides guidance about respirator selection and classification for users who aren't familiar with these topics.

## When do respiratory hazards occur?

Respiratory hazards that require use of respirators can occur during:

- Routine tasks
- Tasks that occur infrequently such as monthly cleaning of a reactor vessel or chemical storage tank
- Emergencies such as rescue, response to a chemical spill, or circumstances where employees must escape from toxic atmospheres.

## Am I qualified to select respirators?

To determine this, you'll need to consider:

- The complexity of your employees' exposures to respiratory hazards and respirator use circumstances.
- If you have a suitable level of technical knowledge and experience with respirators to address respiratory hazards and use circumstances.

For example, individuals selecting respirators solely for wood dust exposure wouldn't need as high a level of knowledge and experience as individuals selecting respirators for multiple contaminants or for highly hazardous circumstances such as emergencies.

## What types of respirators are available?

All respirator types can be sorted into 2 main categories as shown.

Examples are provided to represent basic types available. Some respirator models aren't shown, such as models that combine features from both categories.

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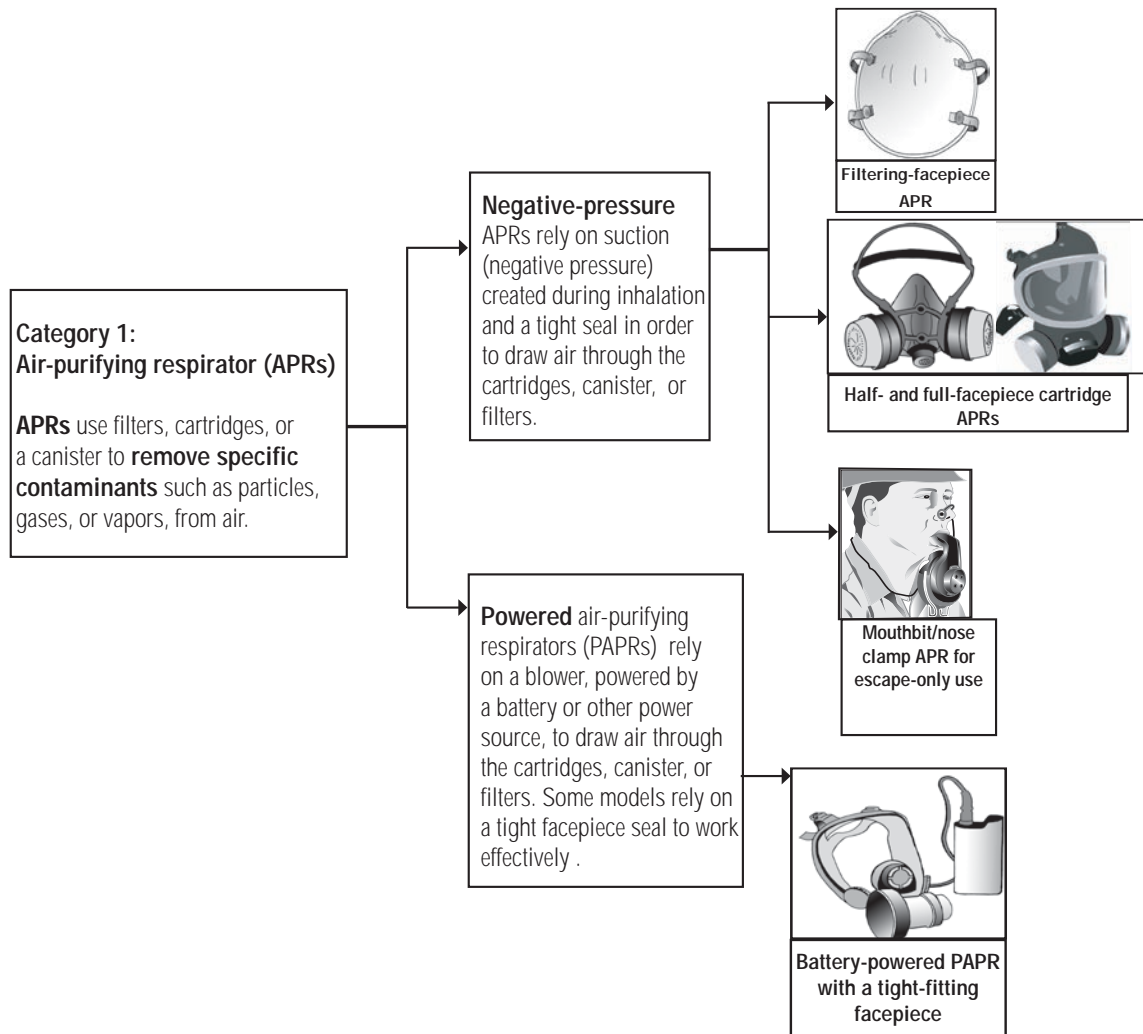
<http://www.lni.wa.gov/>



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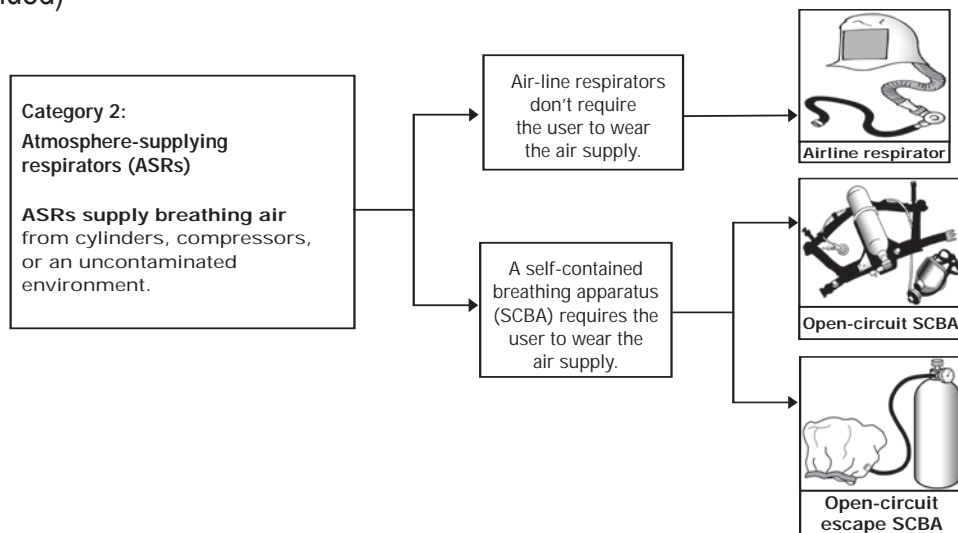
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## Where can I find more information about respirators and selection?

Resources include:

- OSHA's Respiratory Protection Advisor. - Visit [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)
- NIOSH's 1987 Decision Logic. - Visit [www.cdc.gov/niosh](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh)
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).- Visit [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) to find information on biological agents such as TB, hanta virus, psittacosis, avian flu, and anthrax
- Respirator manufacturers' on-line selection guides and other information. – Visit [www.lni.wa.gov/wisha](http://www.lni.wa.gov/wisha) and select the Respiratory Protection topic page to find a list of respirator manufacturers and website links
- The American National Standard for Respiratory Protection, ANSI Z88.2-1992, or most recent edition. - Visit [www.ansi.org](http://www.ansi.org) to find out how to obtain a copy or contact your local librarian for access.
- WISHA. Visit [www.lni.wa.gov/wisha/consultation](http://www.lni.wa.gov/wisha/consultation) for a list of WISHA consultants available for assistance.
- Experienced respirator distributors, and private industrial hygiene consulting services listed in your local phone book.

# Notes

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