

Major Types of Respirators

Air-Purifying Respirators, which remove contaminants from the air



Half mask/Dust mask
APF=10
Needs to be fit tested



Half mask (Elastomeric)
APF=10
Needs to be fit tested



Full face-piece (Elastomeric)
APF=50
Needs to be fit tested



Loose-Fitting Powered Air-Purifying Respirator (PAPR)
APF=25



Hood Powered Air-Purifying Respirator (PAPR)
APF=25/1,000⁴

Original Illustrations by Attilis & Associates

Assigned Protection Factors

Type of Respirator ^{1,2}	Half Mask	Full Face-piece	Loose-Fitting Face-piece	Helmet/Hood
1. Air-Purifying Respirator	10 ³	50	—	—
2. Powered Air-Purifying Respirator (PAPR)	50	1,000	25	25/1,000 ⁴

Illustrations, table and notes are from OSHA's Respiratory Protection Standard: 29 CFR 1910.134

Notes:

- Employers may select respirators assigned for use in higher workplace concentrations of a hazardous substance for use at lower concentrations of that substance, or when required respirator use is independent of concentration.
- The assigned protection factors are only effective when the employer implements a continuing, effective, respirator programs required by this section (29 CFR 1910.134), including training, fit testing, maintenance, and use requirements.
- This APF category includes filtering face-pieces, and half masks with elastomeric face-pieces.
- The employer must have evidence provided by the respirator manufacturer that testing of these respirators demonstrates performance at a level protection of 1,000 or greater to receive an APF of 1,000. This level of performance can be best demonstrated by performing a WPF or SWPF study or equivalent testing. Absent such testing, all other PAPRs and SARs with helmets/hoods are to be treated as loose-fitting face-piece respirators, and receive an APF of 25.
- These APFs do not apply to respirators used solely for escape. For escape respirators used in association with specific substances covered by 29 CFR 1910 subpart Z, employers must refer to the appropriate substance-specific standards in that subpart. Escape respirators for other IDLH atmospheres are specified by 29 CFR 1910.134(d)(2)(ii).