

DPR's Respiratory Protection Regulations

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The presentation reviews changes to the previous respiratory regulation. The regulation has been renumbered and stands alone as 3 CCR 6739. In 1998 Federal OSHA and shortly after Cal OSHA adopted changes to their respiratory regulations. State regulations must be at least equivalent to Federal requirements. The regulation has been expanded to more clearly define the requirements of a respiratory program. Employers must provide approved respiratory equipment in the workplace when respirators are required. The regulations require a written respiratory program and record keeping requirements. Also included are procedures for respirator selection, medical evaluation of employees required to use respirators, fit testing of respirators, procedures for proper use in routine and emergency situations, scheduling cleaning, disinfecting, maintenance, storing, inspection and repair of respirators, requirements for air quality when self contained breathing apparatus are required, training of employees in atmospheres immediately dangerous to life and health, training in proper use of respirator that include how to put on the respirator and limitations of their use. The respirator program must have procedures for evaluating the effectiveness of the program along with record keep. There is a provision in the regulation for voluntary use of respirators when they are not required. The regulation includes a confidential medical evaluation form that is to be filled out by the worker and evaluated by a physician or other licensed health care provider (PLHCP). The employer must have a medical recommendation report on file for the employee before work requiring a respirator can be performed.