



RESPIRATORY PROTECTION WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

How often do filters need to be changed?

There is not one definitive answer because the effective life of a filter varies widely depending on the environment and level of use. Breathing rate, temperature and humidity can all impact the life of a filter.

What are some of the indicators that a filter needs to be replaced?

Particulate filters should be changed when breathing becomes laboured.

Gas/Vapour cartridges should be replaced when smell/taste or irritation in your nose or throat becomes evident.

Disposable particulate masks should be discarded once they become blocked or within 30 days.

What is the industry standard for changing filters?

Industry standard AS/NZS 1715.2009 4.2.5.3 requires filters to be replaced no longer than **6 months** from opening regardless of use. If expiry date is less than 6 months then the filter should be changed before the expiry date.

What is a breakthrough point?

The breakthrough point applies specifically to gas/ vapour filters and is essentially when a filters absorption capacity has been reached. If you have taste or smell coming through then the filter needs to changed.

What is a safety margin?

In order to avoid the breakthrough point it is good practice to use a safety margin. To determine a safety margin you should halve the time that it took to reach the breakthrough point. Date the filter from day of issue and then make a note of how long it took to have smell, taste or have irritation coming through. If this breakthrough occurred after 8 hours use then the appropriate margin for change out would be 4 hours use. However this assumes working in similar conditions or environment. If work environment changes then the safety margin would need to be recalculated accordingly.

How often should Respirators be cleaned?

Industry standard AS/NZS 1715.2009 2.8.2 recommends that respirators should be cleaned daily and hygiene wiped after each use.

Why fit testing?

Fit testing ensures that all wearers of respiratory protection equipment (RPE) are correctly sized and properly trained on how to fit and maintain their RPE. There are 3 sizes of respirator and correct fit for assigned protection factor requires quantitative fit testing using a Portacount machine as per the AS/NZS 1715.2009 S2:(2.6) standard.

RESPIRATOR FILTERS

Date of Issue: June 2015 Location: Model:

Auckland, New Zealand Moldex 7000 Series Reusable Respirator

FACT FILE

Size: Time in Use: 7.5hrs

Large Application: Gas Cutting

CORRECT SIZE Quantitatively fit tested to ensure correct size and wearer trained to fit correctly as per AS/NZS 1715:2009.

SPLASH/SPARK PROTECTOR

Protect against splash from chemicals or sparks from welding or grinding.

FILTER

LIFE 1 shift of 7.5 hours and the change out point had been reached for both filters.

PIGGYBACK ADAPTER

Are used where the hazard environment requires a particulate and gas/vapour filter combination to be used together. Adapters allow each filter type to be changed as necessary.

CLEANING, HYGIENE & MAINTENANCE

Industry standard AS/NZS 1715.2009 states that respirators should be cleaned daily and hygiene wiped after each use. Maintenance is as per the manufacturers instruction.

