

State of Alaska

Department of Labor

Division of Labor Standards and Safety

AKOSH Program Directive 92-4

May 8, 1992

To: All AKOSH Staff

From:  Richard Arab, Deputy Director

Subject: Respiratory Protection Program Manual

- A. Purpose. This AKOSH Program Directive (PD) sets forth accepted practices for respirator users, provides information and guidance on the proper selection, use, and care of respirators, and contains requirements for establishing an AKOSH respirator program.
- B. Applicability. This PD applies to all AKOSH employees who need to wear a respirator to perform his/her duties.
- C. Implementation. Detailed instructions for implementing the respirator program are prescribed in the attached "Respiratory Protection Program Manual."
- D. Background.
1. Alaska Occupational Safety and Health Section (AKOSH) Safety Compliance Officers and Industrial Hygienists (CSHOs) as well as other agency personnel may be exposed to a variety of respiratory hazards while conducting enforcement inspections, consultation visits or monitoring visits.
 2. The human respiratory system can be protected by avoiding or minimizing exposure to harmful substances; however, in some cases this may not be possible and an appropriate respirator shall be required. Certain respirators can reduce/remove many contaminants from an atmosphere. When concentrations of these contaminants are too high to be reduced/removed or when oxygen levels are too low, other respirators are available which can supply breathing quality air to the wearer. Therefore, proper selection of the appropriate respirator for the conditions at hand is mandatory.