

HEALTH & SAFETY

Legislation Update Amended Standard

En 149:2001+A1:2009

EN 149:2001 was superseded by an amended version, EN 149:2001+A1:2009 (EN 149+A1) in July 2009. Changes included the introduction of two usability classifications for disposable respirators; single shift only devices non-reusable (shown through marking 'NR') and reusable devices (marked 'R').

The amended European Standard EN 149:2001+A1:2009 states that all

reusable devices (marked 'R') must withstand being cleaned and disinfected using a method provided by the manufacturer. This change, along with new performance requirements, is intended to give the user further confidence in respirators providing continuous respiratory protection in hazardous environments.

All particle filtering half masks featured fully conform to EN 149:2001+A1:2009 Disposable respirators that have passed the optional Dolomite clogging test have a suffix 'D' listed in their conformity standards.

Buying Guide

Selecting the correct protection

The selection of Respiratory Protection follows a basic four-step method:

- Identify the hazards – dust, metal fume, gas, vapour
- Assess the hazards – assess the hazard level/other protection – skin and eye

- Select the proper respirator – disposable, half mask, full face, powered, airline
- Training in fitting and use – to optimise respiratory protection

Under current legislation, employers are responsible for providing suitable respiratory protection to employees who need it, however they must also provide training in its use, maintenance of the equipment and keeping maintenance documents.

Respiratory Hazards



DUSTS

Produced when solid materials are broken down into finer particles, the longer the dust remains in the air the easier it is to inhale.



GASES

Airborne at room temperature. Able to diffuse or spread freely, can travel very far very quickly



MISTS

Tiny liquid droplets formed by atomisation and condensation processes such as spraying. Mists are often combinations of several hazardous ingredients.



VAPOURS

Gaseous state of substances that are liquids or solids at room temperature. Formed when substances evaporate in the way water vapour evaporates from water.



METAL FUMES

Occur when metals are vaporised under high heat. The vapour is cooled quickly and condenses into very fine particles that float in the air.

