

# Technical Data Bulletin

## #150, September, 2001 — Reusable Respirators

### Inspection, Cleaning and Storage Procedures for 3M Reusable Respirators

#### Inspection

3M™ 6000 and 7000 Series Respirators must be inspected before each use to ensure good operating condition. The facepiece must be repaired or replaced if there are damaged or defective parts. The following inspection procedure is suggested:

1. Check facepiece for cracks, tears and dirt. Be certain facepiece, especially face seal area, is not distorted.
2. Examine inhalation valves for signs of distortion, cracking or tearing.
3. Make sure that head straps are intact and have good elasticity.
4. Examine all plastic parts for signs of cracking or fatiguing. Make sure filter gaskets or seal areas are in good condition.
5. Remove exhalation valve cover and examine exhalation valve and valve seat for signs of dirt, distortion, cracking or tearing. Replace exhalation valve cover.
6. Inspect lens of full facepiece for any damage that may impair respirator performance or vision.

#### Cleaning and Storage

**Cleaning is recommended after each use. 3M™ Respirator Cleaning Wipes 504** may be used as an interim method in the cleaning

schedule for individually assigned respirators, but they must not be the only method in place. During fit-testing, wipes may also be used between employees being tested. However, these respirators must be thoroughly cleaned at the end of each day, using procedures in appendix B-2 of 29 CFR 1910.134.

#### ⚠ WARNING

**Do not clean with solvents. Cleaning with solvents may degrade some respirator components and reduce respirator effectiveness. Inspect all respirator components before each use to ensure good operating condition. Failure to do so may result in sickness or death.**

1. Remove cartridges and filters.
2. Clean facepiece (excluding filters and cartridges) by immersing in warm cleaning solution, water temperature not to exceed 120° F (49° C), and scrub with soft brush until clean. Add neutral detergent if necessary. Do not use cleaners containing lanolin or other oils.
3. Disinfect facepiece by soaking in a solution of quaternary ammonia disinfectant or sodium hypochlorite (1 oz [30 ML] household bleach in 2 gallons [7.5 L] of water), or other disinfectant.
4. Rinse in fresh, warm water and air dry in noncontaminated atmosphere.

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5. Respirator components must be inspected prior to each use. A respirator with any damaged or deteriorated components must be repaired or discarded.

6. The cleaned respirator should be stored away from contaminated areas when not in use.

**NOTE: The above information is also outlined in the users instructions. Additionally, see specific product user instructions packaged with each respirator facepiece for additional information.**

# Helping You Wear it Right

Wearing Your 3M™ Half Facepiece Reusable Respirator  
6000 Series



Always read and follow User Instructions.

1



Place the respirator over your nose and mouth with bottom straps unfastened.

2



Pull the top strap over your head, placing the head cradle on the crown of your head.

3



Hook the bottom straps together behind your neck.

4



Adjust strap tension to achieve a secure fit. Pull the ends of the straps to adjust the tightness beginning with the adjustment points at the top of the respirator and then moving to the adjustment points at the back of the neck. Do not over-tighten. Strap tension may be decreased by pushing out on back side of buckles.

## Perform a User Seal Check

Before assigning any respirator to be worn in a contaminated area, a qualitative or quantitative fit test must be performed per U.S. OSHA standard 29CFR 1910.134 or local requirements.

### Positive Pressure User Seal Check



Place the palm of your hand over the exhalation valve cover and *exhale gently*. The facepiece should bulge slightly. If air leaks between the face and the face seal of the respirator, reposition it and adjust the straps for a more secure seal.\*

### Negative Pressure User Seal Check



#### Using Particulate Filters

Place your thumbs over the center of the filters and *inhale gently*. The facepiece should collapse slightly. If air leaks between the face and the face seal of the respirator, reposition it and adjust the straps for a more secure seal.\*



#### Using Cartridges

Place the palms of your hands over the cartridges and *inhale gently*. The facepiece should collapse slightly. If air leaks between the face and the face seal of the respirator, reposition it and adjust the straps for a more secure seal.\*



#### Using Hard Case Particulate Filters

Squeeze filter covers with hands toward facepiece to restrict airflow. Be careful not to disturb the position of the respirator. *Inhale gently*. The facepiece should collapse slightly. If air leaks between the face and the face seal, reposition it and adjust the straps for a tighter seal.\*

\*If you cannot achieve a proper seal, do not enter contaminated area. See your supervisor.