

# WPS Respirator Compliance

If a pesticide label requires a handler (mixer, loader, applicator, etc.) to use a respirator, you (the agricultural employer) must provide the handler(s) under your employment with all the respiratory equipment required by the label. In addition, you must provide each handler with **1)** a medical evaluation; **2)** a fit test; and **3)** respirator training.

**1)** Using a respirator while working can be strenuous on the human body. Therefore, it is important for pesticide handlers to be *medically evaluated* before attempting to wear a respirator while handling pesticides. The evaluation will determine whether the person is in good enough health to safely wear a respirator. The employee will be given a medical clearance.

**2)** The next step before using a respirator is the *annual fit test*. A fit test ensures that the handler is matched with a respirator that properly fits and seals on their face. Without this step, a respirator may be ineffective, exposing the handler to unacceptable hazard. A person who administers a fit test does not need to be certified, but must know how to properly conduct the test. Handlers must be fit-tested annually. For more information, see *Fit Testing a Respirator for Pesticide Applications*, EC3027.

**3)** Lastly, handlers must receive *annual respirator training*. This training instructs handlers on the proper use, seal checking, care, and maintenance of respiratory equipment.

You (the agricultural employer) must have records of each of your handlers' medical clearance, fit tests, and respirator training. The "WPS Respirator Record" can be used to accomplish this. Print the blank form as many times as you need from <https://pested.unl.edu>.

**Note:** These requirements only apply to pesticides whose labels require a respirator to be worn. If no such pesticides are to be handled, the medical evaluation, fit test, and respirator training are not required.