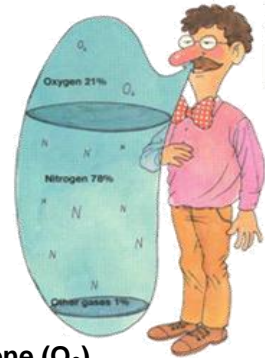


Respiratory Protection- Particulate Respirator

What exactly is air pollutant?

In US, the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS's) has established a list of pollutants which considered harmful to public health and the environment.

Those pollutants are **particulates <10 micrometer (PM₁₀)**, **particulate lead**, **Sulfur dioxides (SO₂)**, **nitrogen dioxides (NO₂)**, **carbon monoxide (CO)** and **ozone (O₃)**.



Particulates are emitted from various sources, including refuse incineration, finishing, blasting, grinding, polishing, powdering, casting, welding, etc.

What's Haze?

Haze are suspensions in the atmosphere of minute dust or salt particles that are not individually seen but nevertheless reduce visibility. Sources of haze particles include farming (ploughing in dry weather), traffic, industry, and wildfires.

What's API?

In Malaysia, the Air Pollution Index (API) is used to monitor the air quality based on the measurement of five pollutants: carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone and PM₁₀.

["Muar recorded an Air Pollutant Index \(API\) reading of 432 at 11am yesterday" \(21st October 2010\), The Star.](#)

| API | Status |
|---------|----------------|
| 0-50 | Good |
| 51-100 | Moderate |
| 101-200 | Unhealthy |
| 201-300 | Very Unhealthy |
| >301 | Hazardous |



Haze shuts Muar schools

How "Haze" affects human's health?

Haze contains fine dust particles which irritate nose, throat, airways, skin and eyes. The ability to tolerate air pollution varies among individuals. Most people would at most experience sneezing, running nose, eye irritation, dry throat and dry cough from the pollutants.

However, children, the elderly, and persons with medical problems like asthma, chronic lung disease, chronic sinusitis and allergic skin conditions are more likely to be affected by haze and may experience more severe symptoms. For certain people, the symptoms may even worsen with physical activities.

Why respirator is necessary for the compliance of regulations?

a) Section 15, OSHA 1994

1. It shall be the duty of every employer and every self-employed person to ensure, so far as is practicable, the safety, health and welfare at work of all his employees.

2e. the provision and maintenance of working environment for his employees that, so far as is practicable, safe, without risk to health and adequate as regards facilities for their welfare at work.

b) Regulation 32(g)(i), [Factories and Machinery \(Safety, Health and Welfare\) Regulation](#)

Every person exposed to vapours, injurious gases, dusty, toxic or hazardous atmospheres or atmospheres deficient in oxygen shall be provided with suitable respiratory protective equipment.

What are the differences between mask and particulates respirator?

| Masks (Eg: gauze mask, surgical mask, handkerchiefs) | Particulate Respirators |
|--|---|
| Protection against large nuisance particles (10microns and above). | Greater protection against fine particles (10microns and below). |
| Single strap/ear loops. | Double elastic strap to provide a secure fit. |
| Not approved for protection. | NIOSH or other certification body approved. |
| No filter layer. | 3-layered electrostatically charged filter effectively traps minutes particles. |
| Comes with basic metal nose clip or none in some models. | Foam-backed nose clip for a proper seal. |



8210 N95

Surgical mask are designed to protect the patient from wearer-generated microorganism but no against any particulates.

What are the categories of particulate respirator?

Particulate respirators can either be “cup” type, foldable with valve type, or foldable without valve type.

Respirators such as like 3M 8247 and 9042A respirator can provide added protection against nuisance level organic vapor; while 8246 respirator is designed for filtration of nuisance level acid gases.

http://www.amsales.com.my/category.php?id_category=50

For further consultation on the respirator selection, you may enquiry at info@amsales.com.my or search on our website at www.amsales.com.my.



When the particulate filter needs to be changed or disposed?

The filter needs to be changed when it's **damaged**, becomes **difficult to breathe through** before the time limit is reached, or due to **hygiene problem**. Respirators used for nuisance level organic vapor relief should be replaced when the user can **smell or taste the chemical**.

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