

## HOT WORK RESPIRATORY PROTECTION

### Do's and don't's

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During hot work, such as thermal cutting and welding, the air may be heavily contaminated. When respiratory protection devices are properly used they then can provide clean air for the worker.

To ensure breathing air of good quality there are certain things the worker needs to **Do** and other things **not to Do**.

### Do

- **Continue to use the respirator at the work site after cessation of hot work**  
Air pollutants still remain in enclosed spaces for long periods of time (hours).
- **Use appropriate filters for your work task**  
A certain filter does not protect against all air contaminants. To ensure clean air, filters need to be chosen on basis of what harmful compounds that are expected.
- **Clean your respirator on a regular basis**
- **Exchange filters according to the manufacturer's instructions**  
Filters only protect efficiently for a limited time.
- **Observe that the efficiency of the respirator may be reduced during certain movements**  
Such as while talking and during high work load, especially for respirators with visors
- **Increase the air flow when the breathing is more intense**  
This will minimize the risk of leakage, especially for respirators with visors.

### Do not

- **Don't wear the mask when not shaved**  
For negative pressure masks, beard stubble makes it more prone to leak.
- **Don't use negative pressure masks in environments with high exposure**  
Negative pressure masks are not recommended for usage during high exposure, such as welding and thermal cutting. They are especially influenced by factors such as beard stubble and low temperatures.
- **Don't assume that all masks fit all wearers**  
The model of respirator needs to be selected with regard to the shape of the face. To ensure that the respirator does not leak, a personal fit test needs to be performed.
- **Don't work with a cold mask**  
At low temperatures (5 °C), the respirator material becomes stiffer and the mask doesn't adapt as well to the face, which makes it more prone to leak.