

N95 Alternatives for Pesticide Handling

Due to PPE shortage during the current COVID-19 crisis, DPR has compiled a list of respirators and exposure controls that offer the same or better protection for employees who are required to use N95 respirators.

If the label requires an N95, you may also use these respirators

Filtering facepiece respirators with the following designations

- N99, N100
- R95, R99, R100
- P95, P99, P100

If product contains oil, do not use "N" series masks

Powered Air Purifying Respirators (PAPRs)

- All PAPR cartridges have HEPA filters that provide more protection than N95 respirators

Elastomeric respirators (half-face or full-face) with particulate filters or combination cartridge/filters

- N, R, or P filters with 95, 99, or 100 efficiency
- Filter can be part of cartridge, an attachment, or stand-alone
- Some chemical cartridges can also filter particulates, which is indicated by a magenta or purple color on the cartridge

If product contains oil, do not use "N" series

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)

- Not the same thing as SCUBA
- See 3 CCR 6739 (k) for air quality requirements

Can't find a respirator?

1. **Ask your PCA if there is a product that doesn't require respiratory protection**
2. **Mix/load pesticides in a closed system[†]** (see 3 CCR 6746 and 6738.4 (c) & (d))
3. **Apply pesticides from an enclosed cab[†]** (see 3 CCR 6738.4 (e))

NOTE: #3 is only applicable to particulate respirators and only if the enclosed cab has a functioning ventilation system

[†] the required PPE must still be available

Respirators must be NIOSH approved. Before wearing any respirator required by label, permit conditions, regulations, or employer policy, users must be medically able to wear a respirator, be trained, and fit tested. Employers must have a written respiratory protection program as detailed in 3 CCR 6739. https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/whs/ind_hygiene_ppe.htm