



Disposable Respirator Classifications

NIOSH (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health) identifies three main categories of approvals for disposable respirators. Each category consists of three levels of efficiency. An alpha-numeric code is used to identify each type.



Filter Categories

- N** - Non-oil resistant
- R** - Oil resistant
- P** - Oil proof

N95

Efficiency % 3 most common are:

- 95%
- 99%
- 100%*

*99.97% actual efficiency

General Selection Criteria:

- N** - If no oil particles present, use a filter of any series (i.e., N-, R-, P- series).
- R** - If oil particles (e.g., Lubricants, cutting fluids, glycerine, etc.) present, use an R- or P- series filter.
- P** - If oil particles present and the filter is to be used for more than 1 work shift (8 hours), use only a P- series filter.

See 42CFR 84 for complete explanation at www.cdc.gov/NIOSH/docs/96-101