

Inspection Guidance for Air-Purifying Respirators (APRs)

Revision Date: 10/12/21

Respirator inspections shall occur before each use and during cleaning. During the inspection of APRs, the following guidance is to be followed:

Examine the facepiece for:

- Excessive dirt, cracks, tears, holes, or distortion;
- Inflexibility (stretch and massage to restore flexibility);
- Cracks or badly scratched lenses in full facepieces; and
- Incorrectly mounted full-facepiece lens or broken or missing mounting clips.

Examine the head straps or head harness for:

- Breaks;
- Loss of elasticity;
- Broken or malfunctioning buckles and attachments (full facepieces only); and
- Excessively worn serrations on the head harness that might permit slippage.

Examine the exhalation valve for the following:

- Foreign material, such as detergent, particles, or human hair under the valve seat;
- Cracks, tears, or distortion in the valve material;
- Improper insertion of the valve body in the facepiece;
- Cracks, breaks, or chips in the valve body, particularly in the sealing surface; and
- Missing or defective valve cover, improper installation of the valve body.

Examine the inhalation valve for the following:

- Foreign material, such as detergent, particles, or human hair under the valve seat;
- Cracks, tears, or distortion in the valve material;
- Improper insertion of the valve body in the facepiece;
- Cracks, breaks, or chips in the valve body, particularly in the sealing surface; and
- Missing or defective valve cover, improper installation of the valve body.

Examine the filter(s) for:

- Loading of filter(s) or replacement date on filter.

Examine cartridge(s) for:

- Worn threads;
- Cracks in housing;
- Worn or missing cartridge gasket.