

Information for N, R, and P Particulate Respirator Categories

N, R, and P are NIOSH certification categories that apply to negative pressure air-purifying respirators that protect against respiratory particulates. They do not apply to powered air-purifying respirators (PAPRs). The particulate respirator will have an N, R, or P designation along with an efficiency rating such as 95, 99, or 100. Some examples include N95 and N100 disposable facepiece respirators and a P100 cartridge. Please make note of these designations as you make your selection for the respirator suitable for your job task.

Use	When
Ν	No oil is present in the air.
R	Oil is present, but only for a single shift or 8 hours of continuous or intermittent use. Note: Re-use beyond a single shift or 8 hours is not recommended.
Р	Oil is present, but follow the manufacturer's time use limitations if you want to re-use these.

N, R, P Designations	N, R	R, P D	esign	ations
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If the efficiency level is:	This means
100	The filter is expected to trap 99.97 particles out of every 100. It is as efficient as a High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filter.
99	The filter is expected to trap 99 particles out of every 100.
95	The filter will trap 95 particles out of every 100.

100, 99, and 95 Efficiency Ratings*

*The table shows how efficient the respirator's filter capacity is expected to be against particles that are at least 0.3 micrometers. The higher the number, the higher the efficiency expected.