

Virginia Board of Nursing

Surveillance Activities Required By the OSHA Respiratory Standards

The following surveillance activities required by the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) Respiratory Standards are within the scope of practice of the registered nurse.

1. Administering OSHA's mandatory questionnaire related to respirator use;
2. Maintaining confidentiality of the questionnaire contents;
3. Reviewing the respirator use information on:
 - a. Hazard requiring respiratory protection (i.e. use of a respirator at work);
 - b. Type of respirator to be worn, pending a successful fit test;
 - c. Duration and frequency of respirator use;
 - d. Expected physical work effort while wearing a respirator;
 - e. Other personal protective equipment (PPE) to be worn concurrently;
 - f. Extremes of temperature and humidity;
4. Integrating the questionnaire answers with the review of respirator use information described in 3-a through 3-f, above;
5. Performing a basic nursing assessment of the health of the employee related to respirator use;
6. Determining if there is sufficient information to reach a reasonable and prudent nursing judgment related to the employee's safe use of a respirator without health or medical limitations; and
7. Referring the employee to a licensed physician if there is not sufficient information to reach the necessary judgment of the employee's ability to safely use a respirator without limitation.

Adopted: November 15, 2000

Reaffirmed: November 13, 2018