



Organic Peroxide Producers
Safety Division

Personal Protective Equipment: Respirators



Prior to using any organic peroxide, OSHA requires employers to conduct an appropriate hazard assessment in order to help keep employees safe. See this link for more details:

<https://www.osha.gov/safety-management/hazard-identification>.

Personal protective equipment including respirators, commonly referred to as "PPE", is equipment worn to minimize exposure to hazards that can cause serious workplace injuries and illnesses.¹ If a workplace hazard assessment reveals that employees face potential injury from the substances which are present and pose a respiratory risk, and the situation cannot be eliminated through engineering and work practice controls, OSHA requires employers to have a respiratory protection program which includes fit testing and other medical evaluations for all affected employees.

Although there are no organic peroxides in the gaseous state, evolution of vapors and mists can and do occur which may be irritating and require use of a respirator.

Please refer to your supplier's SDS for further information on respirator and PPE selection (Section 8: Exposure Controls/Personal Protection).

Factors that affect respirator selection include:

- Federal, state, and local applicable occupational exposure limits
- General use conditions, including determination of contaminant(s)
- Potential concentration of each respiratory hazard
- Oxygen concentration or potential oxygen concentration
- Physical, chemical, and toxicological properties of the contaminant(s)
- Immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH) concentration
- Eye irritation potential

For more information about OPPSD and for links to additional OSHA information, please visit our website at www.americanchemistry.com/OPPSD.

This document is not intended to serve as legal advice, a substitute for in-depth training or specific handling or storage requirements, nor is it designed or intended to define or create legal rights or obligations. All persons involved in the responsible disposal of wastes and containers have an independent obligation to ascertain that their actions are in compliance with current federal, state and local laws and regulations and should consult with legal counsel concerning such matters. NO WARRANTIES ARE GIVEN; ALL IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE ARE EXPRESSLY EXCLUDED.

This work is protected by copyright. Users are granted a nonexclusive royalty-free license to reproduce and distribute this document, subject to the following limitations: (1) the work must be reproduced in its entirety, without alterations; and (2) copies of the work may not be sold.