



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 hazardous particles. They do not apply to powered air-purifying respirators (PAPRs). The particle respirator will have an N or R or P designation along with an efficiency designation such as 95 or 99 or 100. Some examples include N95 and N100 disposable facepiece respirators and P100 cartridges.

N, R, P Designations

Use	When
N	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: Reuse beyond a single shift or 8 hours is not recommended.
P	Oil is present, but follow the manufacturer’s time use limitations if you want to reuse these.

99, 95, 100 Efficiencies*

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.

*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.