



South Carolina
Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation



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Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Henry D. McMaster
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To: DHEC (on behalf of all industries and/or employers involved in patient care)

From: Kristina Baker,

Deputy Director – SC OSHA

RE: Interim Guidance - N95 Respirator Use in Patient Care

Date: March 23, 2020

SC OSHA is aware of the continued questions surrounding the use of N95 respirators and wants to continue to provide useful information as this COVID-19 situation continues. Specifically, it is advised that employers continue to use N95 respirators or comparable respirators for full protection of its workers in prescribed situations. This includes respirators found on the listings provided by the CDC and NIOSH.

As employers continue to look for comparable respirators, including from foreign providers, consider whether the product is comparable to the N95 respirator. Specifically, consider whether it provides similar or better protection. Respirators and/or masks providing less protection are not desirable but are acceptable in the event that no N95 respirator or comparable respirator is available.

*This does not replace previous interim guidance as it relates to N95 fit testing.