

# N95 Alternatives for Pesticide Handling

Due to PPE shortage during the current COVID-19 crisis, DPR has compiled a list of respirators and exposure controls that offer the same or better protection for employees who are required to use N95 respirators.

## If the label requires an N95, you may also use these respirators

### Filtering facepiece respirators with the following designations

- N99, N100
- R95, R99, R100
- P95, P99, P100

*If product contains oil, do not use "N" series masks*

### Powered Air Purifying Respirators (PAPRs)

- All PAPR cartridges have HEPA filters that provide more protection than N95 respirators

### Elastomeric respirators (half-face or full-face) with particulate filters or combination cartridge/filters

- N, R, or P filters with 95, 99, or 100 efficiency
- Filter can be part of cartridge, an attachment, or stand-alone
- Some chemical cartridges can also filter particulates, which is indicated by a magenta or purple color on the cartridge

*If product contains oil, do not use "N" series*

### Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)

- Not the same thing as SCUBA
- See 3 CCR 6739 (k) for air quality requirements

## Can't find a respirator?

1. **Ask your PCA if there is a product that doesn't require respiratory protection**
2. **Mix/load pesticides in a closed system** † (see 3 CCR 6746 and 6738.4 (c) & (d))
3. **Apply pesticides from an enclosed cab** † (see 3 CCR 6738.4 (e))

*NOTE: #3 is only applicable to particulate respirators and only if the enclosed cab has a functioning ventilation system*

† the required PPE must still be available

*Respirators must be NIOSH approved. Before wearing any respirator required by label, permit conditions, regulations, or employer policy, users must be medically able to wear a respirator, be trained, and fit tested. Employers must have a written respiratory protection program as detailed in 3 CCR 6739. [https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/whs/ind\\_hygiene\\_ppe.htm](https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/whs/ind_hygiene_ppe.htm)*