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CONVALESCENT EMPLOYERS
SAFETY ASSOCIATION

CDPH Recalls N95 Masks

Based on a low success rate in fit-testing, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has, today, ordered the recall of 3M model 8000 N95 respirators and Cal/OSHA is advising employers not to use the respirators if employees cannot pass fit-tests with them.

The majority of respirators released from the state's California stockpile to local departments of health happen to be this model. The CDPH has reportedly asked local health departments to stop providing these respirators to healthcare facilities and is developing procedures for handling the remaining supplies.

Cal/Osha is not prohibiting the use of 3M 8000 respirators but strongly recommends against using this model for prevention of aerosol-transmissible disease, and urges employers to assure successful fit-tests if they decide to use them. Fit test must be conducted for all respirators according to General Industry Safety Orders (Title 8/Division 1/Chapter 4/Subchapter 7 §5144, Appendix A).



by Michael Boldt

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