

NIOSH RESPIRATOR FILTER CLASSES

NIOSH classifies the filtering media in respirators based on its resistance to oil and its particle filtering efficiency. The resistance to oil is designated as “N”, “R”, or “P”. Particle filtering efficiency is designated “95”, “99”, or “99.97”.



**NOT RESISTANT
TO OIL**

N95, N99, N100

Filters at least
95%, 99%, or 99.97%
of airborne particles

**SOMEWHAT RESISTANT
TO OIL**

R95, R99, R100

Filters at least
95%, 99%, or 99.97%
of airborne particles

**STRONGLY RESISTANT
TO OIL/OIL PROOF**

P95, P99, P100

Filters at least
95%, 99%, or 99.97%
of airborne particles

OILS

When products containing oil (like fuel, lubricating or hydraulic oils, solvents, paints, and pesticides) are sprayed or used in processes producing aerosols or droplets, the oil component may become airborne.



U.S. Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention
National Institute for
Occupational Safety and Health

NIOSH Respirator Trusted-Source:
https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/topics/respirators/disp_part/RespSource.html
NIOSH Respirator Selection Logic:
<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2005-100/pdfs/2005-100.pdf>