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".

N SERIES

R SERIES

P SERIES

NOT RESISTANT TO OIL

SOMEWHAT RESISTANT TO OIL

STRONGLY RESISTANT TO OIL/OIL PROOF

N95, N99, N100
Filters at least
95%, 99%, or 99.97%
of airborne particles

R95, R99, R100
Filters at least
95%, 99%, or 99.97%
of airborne particles

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.