



Nuclear Radiation and Respiratory Protection Advisory in Japan

MSA recognizes the catastrophic events that have occurred in Japan in recent days and our thoughts are with the Japanese people.

Customers currently located within Japan who wish to purchase respiratory protection for use against radiation should contact MSA Japan directly. Industrial works come under the Industrial Safety and Health Law in Japan.

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MSA Customers located outside of Japan who wish to send or donate respiratory protective equipment to the impacted areas in Japan should know that all such equipment must first meet local Japanese requirements. As such, customers should likewise contact MSA Japan directly.

Otherwise, MSA recommends the use of a full facepiece respirator and GMI-P100 or equivalent cartridges for use against radioactive vapors and particulates.

Customers choosing to send respirators to Japan should understand:

1. Respirators that are not a full facepiece or cartridges that do not contain both a chemical bed and a particulate filter may not provide sufficient protection when both vapors and particulates are present.
2. The user will not be able to detect radiation exposure. Therefore, respirator cartridges must be replaced every eight (8) hours or sooner based on guidance from an employer or appropriate authorities.
3. MSA cannot speculate on the respiratory hazard levels that may be present in Japan.

4. MSA makes no claims about local approval of respiratory protection products in Japan unless coordinated and/or purchased through MSA Japan. Although other products may be effective against radiation, they may not meet Japanese regulations.
5. Although respiratory protection can be provided, there are other sources of radiation exposure, such as dermal, that may be experienced mandating the use of additional PPE.
6. Citizens working in Japan as a representative of their respective governments will need to consult their administration for approved product lists. These products could include SCBA, CBRN, P3 and/or reactor type cartridges. These products may be subject to export rules.
7. In order for a respirator to be most effective you must properly wear the respirator during the entire time you're exposed. Removing the respirator to eat, drink or smoke while you're in a contaminated environment means you will be increasing the amount of radiation particles you are breathing.
8. A proper fit of the respirator to one's face is very important to minimize radiation particles from getting inside the respirator. Particles can enter a respirator through any leaks between the respirator and face that are large enough to let particles in. Hair from beards and mustaches or anything that prevents the respirator from directly contacting the skin can prevent a proper seal. Following the fitting instructions that come with the respirator is very important. Achieving a good fit means more of the air you breathe goes through the respirator filter.
9. Respirators are not intended for use by children or by individuals with a medical condition that might prevent the use of a respirator, such as asthma, emphysema, or a history of heart disease. If you have such a condition, contact your health care provider before use.
10. Be sure to read and follow all instructions on the fit, use and warnings provided by the manufacturer before using any respirators. Misuse may result in serious injury or death.
11. Any products sent to Japan must comply with appropriate export regulations.
12. MSA will not accept the return of any material purchased for use in response to the Japan earthquake of March 11, 2011.

MSA recommends users in Japan refer directly to national and local authorities for additional guidance on respiratory and other personal protective equipment.

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