

Personal Protective Equipment: Respirators

Prior to using any organic peroxide, it is absolutely necessary to conduct an appropriate hazard assessment in order to ensure employee safety. See this link for more details: <https://www.osha.gov/shpguidelines/hazard-identification.html>

If a workplace hazard assessment reveals that employees face potential injury from the substances which are present and pose a respiratory risk and the situation cannot be eliminated through engineering and work practice controls, employers must ensure that proper respirators are available and worn. Personal protective equipment, commonly referred to as "PPE", is equipment worn to minimize exposure to hazards that cause serious workplace injuries and illnesses.

Although there are no organic peroxides in the gaseous state, evolution of vapors and mists can and do occur. Annoying odors are another issue to contend with.

Please refer to your supplier's SDS for further information on respirator and PPE selection (Section 8: Exposure Controls/Personal Protection).

Factors that affect respirator selection include:

- General use conditions, including determination of contaminant(s)
- Expected concentration of each respiratory hazard
- Oxygen concentration or expected oxygen concentration
- NIOSH recommended exposure limit (REL), OSHA permissible exposure limit (PEL), American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) Threshold Limit Value (TLV), State-OSHA exposure limit, American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) Workplace Environmental Exposure Limit (WEEL), or other applicable occupational exposure limit;
- Physical, chemical, and toxicological properties of the contaminant(s)
- Immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH) concentration
- Eye irritation potential

For more information about OPPSD and for links to additional OSHA information, please visit our website at <http://www.plasticsindustry.org/oppsd>.

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