



## Revised OSHA Assigned Protection Factors

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**Special Operations Reports** are issued to initiate management actions in response to events whose subject matter represents significant Departmental safety concerns.

**Environment, Safety and Health Alerts** are issued to initiate immediate action on potentially significant safety issues.

**Environment, Safety and Health Bulletins** are issued to share information and recommend actions on potential safety issues.

**Safety Advisories** are issued to provide information to the DOE Complex on potentially significant safety or health issues.

### PURPOSE

This Advisory is being issued to alert DOE sites to the recent Federal Register [Notice](#) announcing the revised Assigned Protection Factors (APFs) for respiratory protection. This Notice applies to the DOE O 440.1A and 10 CFR 851 implementation plans and the standards promulgated by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in 29 CFR Parts 1910, 1915, and 1926.

### BACKGROUND

OSHA announced in the August 24, 2006, Federal Register that it had modified its respiratory protection Standard to include definitions and requirements for APFs and Maximum Use Concentrations (MUCs). This final Standard, which requires implementation by November 22, 2006, applies to general industry, construction, shipyard, longshoring, and marine terminal workplaces. The revised APFs provide employers with information to use when selecting respirators for employees exposed to atmospheric contaminants. Using APFs as the basis for respirator selection is an important component of an effective respiratory protection program. The revised Standard supersedes the respirator selection provisions of existing substance-specific standards with these new APFs (except for the respirator selection provisions of the 1,3-butadiene Standard).

### DEFINITIONS

The Assigned Protection Factor (APF) is the level of respiratory protection that is expected to be provided to employees who wear respirators when the employer implements a continuing, effective respiratory protection program.

Maximum Use Concentration (MUC) means the maximum atmospheric concentration of a hazardous substance from which an employee can be expected to be protected when wearing a respirator.

### APF EXAMPLES FOR FULL FACEPIECE RESPIRATOR TYPES

Respirator Type	APF
Air-purifying respirator (APR)	50
Powered air-purifying respirator (PAPR)	1,000
Supplied-air respirator (SAR)/airline respirator (pressure demand)	1,000
Self-contained breathing apparatus (pressure demand)	10,000

### DOE IMPACT

Significant aspects of these changes on the DOE O 440.1A and 10 CFR 851 implementation plans include:

- APFs for full facepiece APRs are set by OSHA at 50, compared to 100 in ANSI Z88.2-1992.
- APFs for PAPR or SAR/airline respirator helmet/hood set by OSHA range are 25 or 1,000 (with employers responsible for obtaining manufacturer information to justify an APF of 1,000), compared to 1000 in ANSI Z88.2-1992.
- These OSHA APFs are enforceable and not recommendations.

