Understanding Your Elastomeric Respirator

Elastomeric Quarter Facepiece Respirator
- Covers your nose and mouth, and seals between your chin and lower lip
- Assigned Protection Factor (APF) = 5
- Can have an exhalation valve or no valve
- Protects against particles, gases, or vapors when equipped with the proper filter or cartridge*

Elastomeric Half Mask Respirator (EHMR)
- Covers your nose and mouth, and seals under your chin
- APF = 10
- Available in multiple sizes to fit a diverse user population
- **EHMR with an exhalation valve**
  - Your inhaled breath enters through the filter or cartridge material and your *unfiltered* exhaled breath exits through the exhalation valve
  - Exhalation valve increases comfort by reducing breathing resistance, removing moisture, and reducing CO₂ concentrations inside the respirator
  - Protects against particles, gases, or vapors when equipped with the proper filter or cartridge
- **EHMR with no exhalation valve**
  - Your inhaled breath enters through the filter material and your exhaled breath exits through the same filter
  - Protects against particles only
  - *Cannot* be used with gas or vapor cartridges
- **EHMR with an exhalation valve filter**
  - Your inhaled breath enters through the filter material and your exhaled breath is filtered after it passes through the exhalation valve
  - Protects against particles, gases, or vapors when equipped with the proper filter or cartridge*

Elastomeric Full Facepiece Respirator
- Covers your whole face, from roughly the hairline to below the chin, and provides eye protection
- APF = 50†
- Available in multiple sizes to fit a diverse user population
- Has an exhalation valve
- Your inhaled breath enters through the filter or cartridge material and your unfiltered exhaled breath exits through the exhalation valve
- Protects against particles, gases, or vapors when equipped with the proper filter, cartridge, or canister

*Currently, no NIOSH Approved® respirators of this kind are approved for use with gas or vapor cartridges.
†An APF of 50 can only be achieved if the respirator is quantitatively fit tested. If the respirator is qualitatively fit tested, it will have an APF of 10.
NIOSH Approved is a certification mark of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) registered in the United States and several international jurisdictions.
For more information, visit cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/.