

## 3M Memorandum

**Date:** January 23, 2018

**From:** 3M Personal Safety Division

**Subject:** Stockpiling Disposable Respirators Without Published Shelf Life

To Whom It May Concern:

Like all products, 3M™ Disposable Respirators are not intended to last forever. If you have questions regarding the shelf life of a 3M™ Disposable Respirator and do not find the information on the packaging or *User Instructions*, you can call 1-800-228-3957 for further information.

3M recently became aware of some questions regarding the shelf life of the 3M™ VFlex™ Health Care Particulate Respirator and Surgical Mask 1805 and 3M™ VFlex™ Health Care Particulate Respirator and Surgical Mask 1805S. 3M does not label these products with a shelf life, but based on many years of experience with similar products, designs, and materials, 3M would expect that these products would be usable up to 5 years from the date of manufacture. If you are purchasing these products for stockpiling purposes, please plan accordingly. The date of manufacture can be determined from the label or printed information located on the primary box as well as the shipper case or corrugated box.

As with all 3M™ Disposable Respirators, the products must be stored per the packaging and *User Instructions*. 3M cannot ensure that the respirators will meet performance requirements if respirators are maintained outside of the established storage conditions. Furthermore, prior to use, it is critical that (i) the respirator be inspected; (ii) a user seal check be conducted by the wearer before entering a hazardous environment; and (iii) all *User Instructions* are followed.

If you have any questions, or need assistance with interpreting the date of manufacture, please call 3M Health Care Helpline at 1-800-228-3957 if in the U.S. In Canada call 1-800-563-2921. Other countries please contact your local 3M office.

### Personal Safety Division

3M Center, Building 235-2W-70  
St. Paul, MN 55144-1000

3M PSD products are  
occupational use only.

### In United States of America

Technical Service: 1-800-243-4630  
Customer Service: 1-800-328-1667  
[3M.com/workersafety](http://3M.com/workersafety)

### In Canada

Technical Service: 1-800-267-4414  
Customer Service: 1-800-364-3577  
[3M.ca/Safety](http://3M.ca/Safety)

© 3M 2018. All rights reserved.  
3M and VFlex are trademarks of  
3M Company and its affiliates.  
Used under license in Canada.  
All other trademarks are property  
of their respective owners.  
Please recycle.

