

September 2021 Update

On June 30, 2021, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced the revocation of the Emergency Use Authorizations (EUAs) for non-NIOSH approved respirators from China and other countries outside the US due to multiple factors including the increase in availability of NIOSH approved respirators. This revocation was effective July 6, 2021, and affects the emergency use authorization of such respirators by healthcare personnel in healthcare settings. Additional information is available on the FDA website. **In addition, on July 7, 2021, the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the agency that regulates selection and use of respirators in the workplace, rescinded its temporary enforcement discretion memorandum**, stating that “...circumstances precipitating the issuance of OSHA’s respiratory protection enforcement discretion memoranda no longer exist. Therefore, where respirator supplies and services are readily available, OSHA will cease to exercise enforcement discretion for temporary noncompliance with the Respiratory Protection standard based on employers’ claims of supply shortages due to the COVID-19 pandemic.” Agency guidance is subject to change. Facilities should consult the latest guidance.

Date: April 2020

RE: End User Letter for Non-NIOSH approved FFR Authorized for Use 9320+ and 9322+

Dear Valued Customer,

This letter relates to the use of the following 3M filtering facepiece respirators (FFR) that have been imported in response to the FFR shortage resulting from the COVID-19 outbreak: 9320+ and 9322+.

In its Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators,¹ the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended that health care institutions that no longer have access to NIOSH-approved N95 respirators consider respirators approved under standards used in other countries that are similar to NIOSH approved N95 filtering facepiece respirators for occupational use.

On March 28th, 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an Emergency Use Authorization (March 28th EUA)² that addresses the use of certain imported disposable FFRs that are not NIOSH approved by healthcare personnel in the United States. Pursuant to the March 28th EUA, the 3M respirator models listed above are intended to be used on an emergency basis in accordance with CDC recommendations to help prevent healthcare personnel exposure to pathogenic biological air borne particulates during filtering facepiece respirator (FFR) shortages resulting from the COVID-19 outbreak.

The 3M respirator models listed above are certified as meeting the requirements of FFP2 respirators as per EN 149:2001.³ More information about these approvals and respirators – including *User Instructions* – is available at: www.3M.com/Coronavirus.

When properly selected and worn, these respirators help reduce exposure to airborne particles, including biological aerosols that may contain viruses or bacteria. OSHA respiratory protection standards mandate that individuals using new respirator models receive training and a fit test prior to the first time they use the respirator. In addition, individuals should read and follow all user instructions, including conducting a user seal check every time they put on a respirator.

If you experience any adverse events associated with the use of these respirators, please contact the 3M technical assistance helpline at 1-800-243-4630.

Sincerely,
3M Personal Safety Division

1. See https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirators-strategy/index.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fhcp%2Frespirator-supply-strategies.html (last visited April 6, 2020).

2. See <https://www.fda.gov/media/136403/download> (last visited April 8, 2020).

3. Please see the 3M Technical Bulletin titled Comparison of FFP2, KN95, and N95 and Other Filtering Facepiece Respirator Classes for additional information concerning the similarities and differences between the China KN95 approval and the U.S. NIOSH N95 approval; available at: <https://multimedia.3m.com/mws/media/17915000/comparison-ffp2-kn95-n95-filtering-facepiece-respirator-classes-tb.pdf> (last visited April 8, 2020).

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3M PSD products are intended for occupational use only.

In the United States of America
Technical Service: 1 (800) 243-4630
Customer Service: 1 (800) 328-1667
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In Canada
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