



April 2013

Product Update: 3M Health Care Particulate Respirator and Surgical Mask 1870


3M has been in the process of establishing a shelf life for our health care filtering facepiece respirators. The shelf life determination for each respirator model is product specific, based on material components and testing and takes into consideration the respirator as a system. We have recently completed testing and data collection on the 3M 1870 and based on the evaluation, a 5 year shelf-life has been established when respirators are stored in their original packaging within climatic conditions ranging from -4°F (-20°C) to +86°F (+30°C) and not exceeding 80% RH.

The addition of shelf life information to our 3M NIOSH-approved respirators is a way to communicate to our customers the storage conditions and potential longevity of our respirators. Traditionally the life cycle of these respirators commonly used in health care workplace applications, from date of manufacture to use by the customer, has been short in duration as they are disposable. However, with the increased attention to respirator stockpiling, many customers have requested information on storage conditions and shelf life. We hope that by adding this information to the respirator packaging it will encourage our customers to employ good practices such as appropriate long term storage, rotation of stock and inventory management.

The transition to updated packaging/labeling for the 1870 model in relation to the storage conditions and shelf life has been initiated.

Here is an example of how the storage conditions and shelf life will be depicted in the Instructions for Use and on the side of the primary box respectively (this is an example only):

*When stored in original packaging between temperatures from -4°F (-20°C) to +86°F (+30°C) and not exceeding 80% RH, the respirator may be used until the date specified on packaging located next to the "Use by Date" symbol.*

 = Use by Date

The dating will be in a year/month/day format "YYYY/MM/DD".

Please note, for a period of time, you may see product package/labeling in the market place with and without storage condition and shelf life information included. If you have any questions, please call the 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 offices.