

N95 Respirators: NIOSH Approvals and Background Info

Healthcare vs Industrial N95s: There are two main types of N95 respirators: healthcare/surgical and industrial. In terms of airborne particle filtration, healthcare/surgical and industrial N95s provide the same protection- both filter a minimum of 95% of particles.

- The difference is that the healthcare/surgical N95s have a splash resistant coating and are approved as a medical device by FDA. Industrial N95s do not have a splash resistant coating, which means that as soon as they get splashed or sprayed or otherwise wetted, they stop filtering airborne particles.
- Industrial N95s are only allowed to be used in healthcare settings under the Emergency Use Authorization from the FDA. Ordinarily, they would not be allowed.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) certifies filtering facepiece and other respirators.

Commonly used NIOSH-certified N95 respirators:

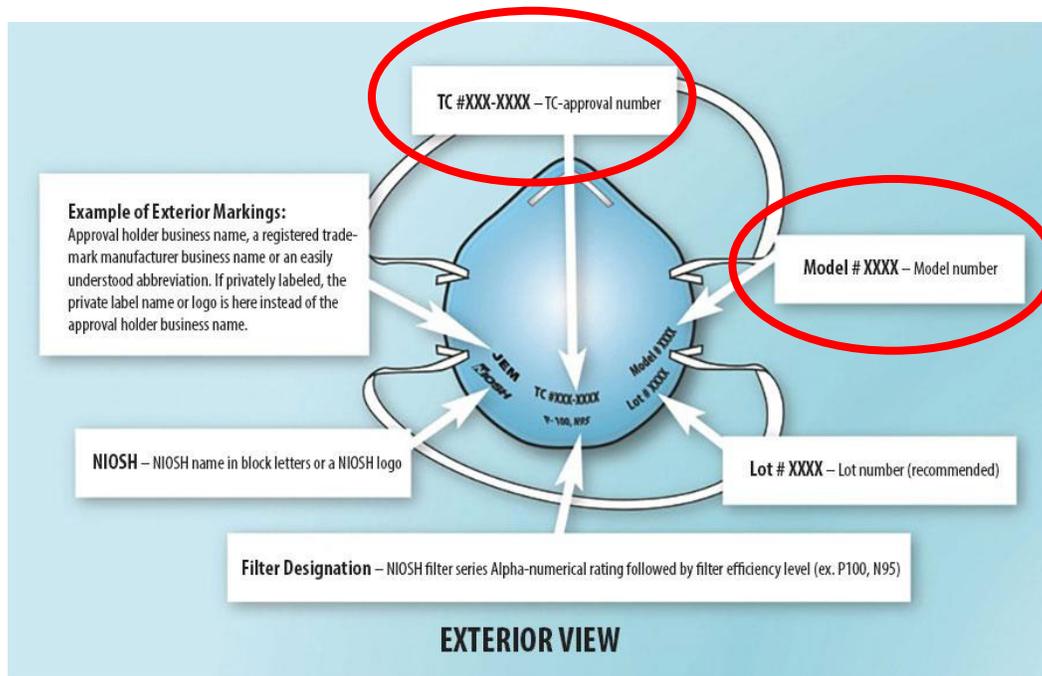
Model/Manufacturer	NIOSH approval number	Healthcare or industrial N95?	Picture
3M 1860 3M 1860S	84A-0006	Healthcare	
3M 1870	84A-3844	Healthcare	
3M 1870+	84A-5726	Healthcare	

3M 8210	84A-0007	Industrial	
3M 9205+	84A-8590	Industrial	
3M 8511	84A-1299	Industrial	
BYD DE2322	84A-9221	Industrial	
Makrite 9500S	84A-5463	Healthcare	
Honeywell H910 Plus	84A-8480	Industrial	

Honeywell DC300N95	84A-8139	Industrial	
Moldex 1500	84A-5171	Healthcare	
Kimberly Clark 46727/46767	84A-0010	Healthcare	
Advoque ADV001	NIOSH certification revoked	Should not be used	

To check NIOSH approval of another filtering facepiece respirator model:

1. Go to the NIOSH website to view the list of approved filtering facepiece respirators:
https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/nppt/topics/respirators/disp_part/default.html
2. Navigate to the list for the type of respirator you are researching: N95, N99, N100, R95, etc.
3. Navigate to page to view the manufacturer of the respirator your are researching. This list is alphabetical by manufacturer name (e.g., 3M, Honeywell, Moldex, etc.).
4. Find the model number that matches the respirator you are researching. Make sure it matches (e.g., 3M has the 8210, the 8210CN, and the 8210V, all of which have different certification numbers).
5. Check the certification number listed by NIOSH for the respirator you are researching with what is printed on the respirator. NIOSH has this diagram to help you navigate checking the approval number. Specifically make sure the approval number and model number match NIOSH's records (circled in red).



To check NIOSH approval of another type of respirator (e.g., a PAPR) use the Certified Equipment List. Directions on use at link. <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/topics/respirators/cel/default.html>

Other important information:

- Fit testing is mandated by OSHA for each new model of respirator provided by an employer (OSHA Standard 29 CFR 1910.124(f)(2) and Calif. Code of Regulations [Section 5144](#) (f)(2)).
- CDC has clarified their guidance on [“optimizing the supply of N95 respirators”](#) where they recommend employers first implement a series of measures to reduce the need for PPE, including cohorting patients into dedicated Covid units and using reusable PPE:

“Use NIOSH approved [alternatives to N95 respirators](#) where feasible. These include other classes of filtering facepiece respirators, [elastomeric half-mask and full facepiece air purifying respirators](#), powered air purifying respirators (PAPRs). All of these alternatives will provide equivalent or higher protection than N95 respirators when properly worn. NIOSH maintains a searchable, online version of the [certified equipment list](#) identifying all NIOSH-approved respirators.”

- Cal/OSHA has strong [enforcement guidance](#), as a result of CNA’s advocacy, that employers must follow when there are supply issues with N95 respirators. This guidance lays out the “optimization strategies” that healthcare employers can follow, in the order they must follow them.

1.0 Use reusable NIOSH certified respirators instead of disposable filtering facepiece respirators (elastomerics and PAPRs)

2.0 Use NIOSH certified industrial filtering facepiece respirators

3.0 Allow employees to wear their own respirator if it complies with Cal/OSHA requirements

4.0 Use Fit Testing Methods that Maximize Respirator Supplies and Fit Testing Efficiency

5.0 Use certain expired NIOSH certified filtering facepiece respirators

6.0 Use methods to extend the use of existing stocks of filtering facepiece respirators

6.1 Extended use of respirators

- Extended use is practiced when multiple patients are infected with the same respiratory pathogen and patients are placed together in dedicated areas (cohorting). When patients are cohorted together:
 - The maximum recommended respirator extended use period is 8–12 hours.
 - Respirators should be removed and carefully stored in a clean paper bag before activities such as meals, restroom breaks, and other breaks and then re-donned and worn through the remainder of the shift. The respirator must be discarded if at any time it becomes contaminated or does not fit or function correctly.

6.2 Store disinfected filtering facepiece respirators in case of future shortages