

## Respiratory Protection in Agriculture

Many agriculture activities create respiratory health hazards - examples of air contaminants include pesticide or herbicide mists or vapours; exposure to mouldy hay and grain; welding and grinding fumes, and many others.

Agriculture workers should consult Safety Data Sheets for all products used to identify the presence of respiratory hazards. If in doubt consult a qualified and competent person such as an Occupational Hygienist.

### Major respiratory hazards include:

**Organic Dusts:** Organic dusts are a complex mixture of vegetable matter, pollens, animal dander, insect, rodent and bird faeces, feathers, microorganisms, bacterial & fungal toxins, residual chemicals and antibiotics and can be thought of as a chemical soup and can also carry infectious microorganisms e.g. Q Fever, Campylobacter, e. Coli.

**Inorganic Dusts:** These are primarily an issue in field activities associated with disturbing the soil or in the workshop when carrying out metal work such as grinding and welding.

**Pesticides:** consist of a variety of organic compounds to control insects. The effect and impact of these vary from product to product and users should always consult the SDS for further information such as recommended PPE.

**Herbicides:** consist of a variety of organic and inorganic compounds to control weeds. The effect of these vary from product to product. Users should always consult the SDS for further information such as recommended PPE.

**Volatile Organic Compounds:** A variety of products such as spray paints, solvents, glues and resins can contain harmful quantities of volatile organic compounds (VOC). The effect of exposure to VOCs can include respiratory irritation, sensitization and damage to liver, kidney and central nervous system

Hazard	Suggested Protection	Suitability of 3M Respirators		
		3M™ Aura™ Disposable 9322A+ P2	3M™ Welding/Particulate Kit 6528QL, GP2	3M™ Spraying Kit 7551, A1P2
Organic Dusts	P2	•	•	•#
Inorganic Dust	P1/P2	•	•	•#
Welding Fume	P2	•	•	•#
Low volatility organics in aqueous solutions, Herbicides or Fungicides*	GP2		•	•
Volatile Organic Compound based Pesticides, Herbicides or Fungicides*	A1P2			•
Spray paints, solvents, glues and resins containing volatile organic compounds*	A1P2			•

\* Consult the SDS for the product to ensure that the appropriate PPE is used.

# The 3M™ Half Face Respirator 7500 can also be used with the 3M 2125, 2128 or 6035 filters for these hazards.

For any respirator related issues, please contact your local 3M PSD representative or call the 3M TechAssist Helpline on 0800 364 3576.



Personal Safety Division

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