

WAC 296-307-62605 Identify and evaluate respiratory hazards.

You must:

- Make sure employees are protected from potentially hazardous exposure while you perform your evaluation
- Perform your evaluation without considering the protection provided to employees by a respirator
- Determine the form of the hazard, such as dust, mist, gas, oxygen deficiency, or biological agent
- Make sure you consider:
 - Potential emergency and rescue situations that may occur, such as equipment or power failures, uncontrolled chemical reactions, fire, explosion, or human error
 - Workplace conditions such as work processes, types of material, control methods, work practices and environmental conditions.
- Determine or reasonably estimate whether any employee is or could be exposed to any of the following:
 - Any airborne substance above a permissible exposure limit (PEL) listed in Table 3
 - A substance at or above the action level (AL) specified in the rule for that substance
 - Any other respiratory hazard.
- Use **any** of the following to determine employee exposure:
 - Information that would allow an estimate of the level of employee exposure, such as MSDSs or pesticide labels, observations, measurements or calculations
 - Data demonstrating that a particular product, material or activity cannot result in employee exposure at or above the AL or PEL
 - Personal air samples that represent an employee's usual or worst case exposure for the entire shift.

Note:

- Rules for specific substances may contain additional requirements for determining employee exposure.
- Use methods of sampling and analysis that have been validated by the laboratory performing the analysis.
- Samples from a representative group of employees may be used for other employees performing the same work activities when the duration and level of exposure are similar.

You must:

- Consider the atmosphere to be immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH) when you cannot determine or reasonably estimate employee exposure
- Make sure employee exposure, to 2 or more substances with additive health effects, is evaluated using this formula:

$$E_m = \frac{C_1}{L_1} + \frac{C_2}{L_2} + \dots + \frac{C_n}{L_n}$$

The symbol	Is the ...
E	Equivalent exposure for the mixture. When the value of E is greater than 1, a respiratory hazard is present.
C	Concentration of a particular substance.
L	TWA, STEL, or ceiling for that substance from Table 3.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, 49.17.060. WSR 05-01-166, § 296-307-62605, filed 12/21/04, effective 4/2/05.]