







January 1, 2008

Dear Valued Customer:

3M has received questions regarding differences in N95 particulate respirators and how those differences relate to use in healthcare settings to help reduce exposure to airborne biological particles such as *M. Tuberculosis*. Customers have asked what differences exist between the 3M Occupational Health and Environmental Safety (OH&ES) N95 respirators and the 3M Health Care N95 respirators. The table below summarizes the key differences:

Division	Healthcare/ Medical	OH&ES	Healthcare/ Medical	OH&ES
	1860/1860S	8210/8110S	1870	9210
Model/Catalog Number				
NIOSH Approved	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
N95 Filtration	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
FDA Cleared	Yes	No	Yes	No
Fluid Resistant Claim	Yes	No	Yes	No
Can be used in surgery	Yes	No	Yes	No
Fit testing required when switching to or from the Healthcare or Occupational models	Yes	Yes	No, when switching from 9210 based on identical construction*	No, when switching from 1870 based on identical construction*

*Since the 3M Model 1870 and 3M Model 9210 respirators are identical in all aspects of design, construction, materials and N95 filter media, it is 3M's position re-fit testing is not required when switching between the two models. Any change to the construction of either model would be communicated by 3M.

All models in the above table are NIOSH approved N95 particulate respirators and meet the same filtration test criteria per the NIOSH requirements. All models also have the same assigned protection factor. The 8210/8110S and the 9210 are not FDA cleared medical devices and cannot be used in the operating room environment, nor are they fluid resistant. The size of the 8210/8110S is similar to the 1860/1860S, but due to differences in construction, anyone switching from one to the other would have to be re-fit tested on the new respirator. If fluid resistance and use in surgery/operating room environment are important features to your facility, the 1860/1860S and 1870 Healthcare Particulate Respirators and Surgical Masks are the appropriate products to consider. If fluid resistance and use in surgery/operating room environment are not requirements for use in your facility, OSHA and the CDC allow any NIOSH N95 particulate respirator to be selected to help reduce exposure to airborne biological particles when used in the context of an effective respiratory protection program according to OSHA requirements.

Sincerely,

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