



N95 RESPIRATORS



The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has established a series of standards for testing and approving *filter material* to comply with federal regulations. See, 42 CFR Part 84, Subpart K, § 84.181 (Non-powered air-purifying particulate filter efficiency level determination). For **N**-series filters, the efficiency of the filter material is measured using a solid sodium chloride particulate aerosol. The manufacturer must pass the NIOSH testing protocols before obtaining approval and receiving a “testing and certification” (TC) number.

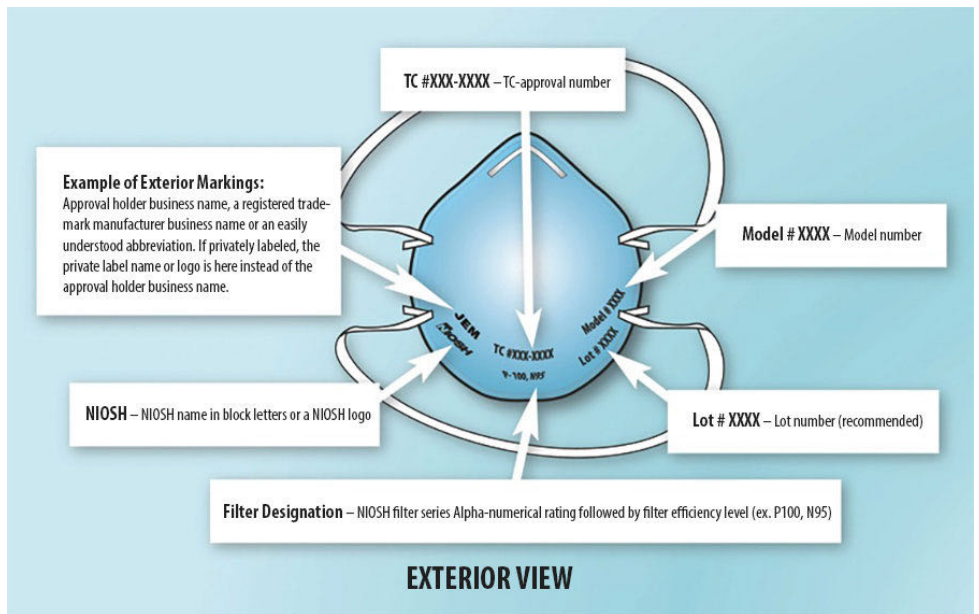
Filters are certified **N**, **R** or **P** according to their oil resistance and assigned a **95**, **99** or **100** according to their filter efficiency, i.e. the % of test particles of 0.3 microns (300 nanometers) or larger that they can block. A **N95** filter is certified to block at least 95% of such particles.

The **Federal Food & Drug Administration (FDA)**, in coordination with **NIOSH**, has additional approval requirements to confirm the biocompatibility of surgical masks, before they are labelled “**N95 surgical respirators**”. 21 CFR 878.4040.



What is a N95 Respirator?

In the U.S., under the definitions used by **NIOSH** and **OSHA**, each device depicted above is considered an “**N95 respirator**” - *if the filter material is certified and labelled “N95”*. The two on the left are examples of a “filtering facepiece respirator” (FFR) and the two on the right are examples of “elastomeric respirators” that use cartridge filters. The center surgical mask is known as a “**N95 surgical respirator**” and involves additional approval by the FDA.



Use the camera on you cell phone to scan these QR Codes. The



one on the left will take you to a list of NIOSH approved respirators by manufacturer, the one on the right to a searchable database maintained by the CDC.

