

EN 149 – Respiratory protective devices

RPE (Respiratory Protective Equipment) is designed to protect the wearer against inhalation of hazardous substances in the air.

Respirator (filtering device) uses filters to remove contaminants in the workplace air.

Respirators should never be used for protection in situations with reduced oxygen levels.

Particle filters have 3 ratings:

P3 – Highest Efficiency

P2 – Medium Efficiency

P1 – Lowest Efficiency

There are three main types of filters:

1. Particle filters
2. Gas/Vapour filters
3. Combined filters (particles/gases)

Gas/Vapour Filters			
Filter Type	For use against	Colour code	Other Information
A	Organic gases and vapours, boiling point >65°C	Brown	EN 14387
B	Inorganic gases and vapours	Grey	EN 14387, do not use against carbon monoxide
E	SO ₂ and other acidic gases	Yellow	EN 14387
K	Ammonia and its organic derivatives	Green	EN 14387
Hg	Mercury	Red & White	EN 14387, includes P3 particle filter, Maximum use time 50 hours, no class number
NO	Oxides of nitrogen	Blue & White	EN 14387, includes P3 particle filter, Single use, no class number

AX	Organic gases and vapours, boiling point <65°C	Brown	EN 14387, Single use, no class number
SX	Substances as specified by the manufacturer	Violet	EN 14387