Identifying NIOSH-Approved Respirators

U.S. National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSH) is the federal agency responsible for evaluating and certifying filtering facepiece respirators.

Unfortunately, there are a multitude of counterfeit respirators falsely marketed as NIOSH-approved. In order to guarantee adequate respiratory protection, only use genuine and fit tested respirators.

NIOSH-Approved Respirators Require the Following Exterior Markings:
(May be printed on the headband straps)

1. Brand name, registered trademark, or an easily understood abbreviation
2. Model Number
3. NIOSH
4. Filter Class (N, P, or R) and Filter Efficiency Level (95, 99, or 100)
5. Approval Number (TC-84A-XXXX)

Note: Lot number is recommended but not required

Signs that a respirator may be counterfeit:
- Earloops instead of headbands
- No markings at all on respirator
- No NIOSH markings
- NIOSH spelled incorrectly
- No approval (TC number) on respirator or headband

Note: KN95s have fewer identifying markings than N95s, and therefore it is more difficult to identify counterfeit products.