

# NIOSH RESPIRATOR FILTER CLASSES

NIOSH classifies the filtering media in respirators based on its resistance to oil and its particle filtering efficiency. The resistance to oil is designated as “N”, “R”, or “P”. Particle filtering efficiency is designated “95”, “99”, or “99.97”.



**NOT RESISTANT  
TO OIL**

**N95, N99, N100**

Filters at least  
95%, 99%, or 99.97%  
of airborne particles

**SOMEWHAT RESISTANT  
TO OIL**

**R95, R99, R100**

Filters at least  
95%, 99%, or 99.97%  
of airborne particles

**STRONGLY RESISTANT  
TO OIL/OIL PROOF**

**P95, P99, P100**

Filters at least  
95%, 99%, or 99.97%  
of airborne particles

## OILS

When products containing oil (like fuel, lubricating or hydraulic oils, solvents, paints, and pesticides) are sprayed or used in processes producing aerosols or droplets, the oil component may become airborne.