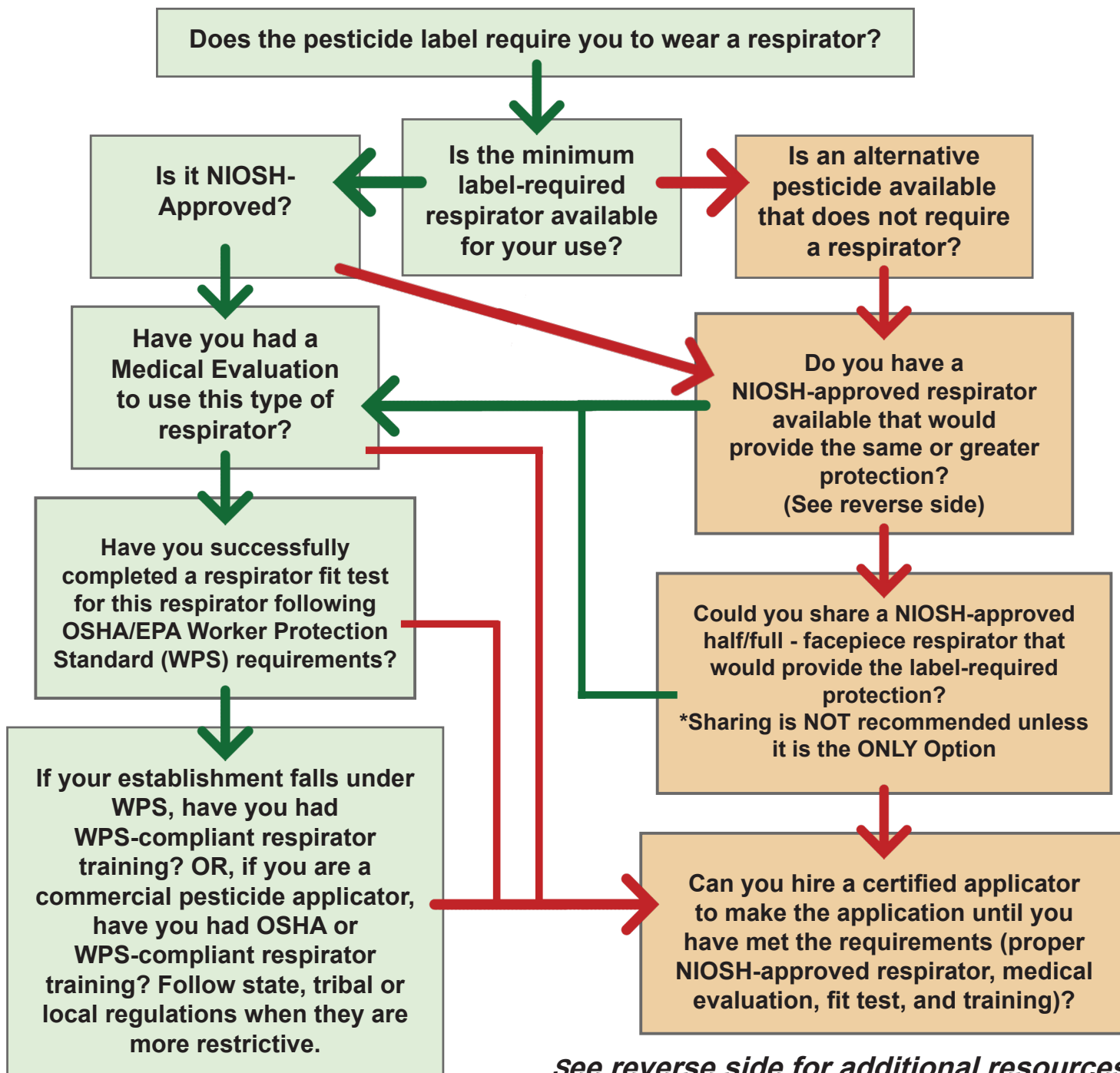


Respiratory Protection: Are you keeping yourself safe and meeting legal requirements?

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, PPE will likely be in short supply. PPE listed on the label is the legal requirement for pesticide applicators. Always follow the label directions. The following flowchart will help you determine if you are meeting your needs for respiratory protection. If you answer YES to a question, follow the **green arrow**; if you answer NO to a question, follow the **red arrow**.

*Due to current concerns with COVID-19, respirators should be cleaned and disinfected after each use.

Remember...
You must do required user seal check(s) **EVERY** time you put on the respirator!



See reverse side for additional resources

Selecting Air-Purifying Respirators (APR) for Particulate Protection

When oil is not present in the formulation, pesticide label statements will specify “use any N, R, P or HE filter”, combining non-powered (N, R, P) and powered APR (HE) particulate filter designations. Of these label options, applicators often choose **N95** filtering–facepiece respirators (FFR).

When you can't locate an N95 FFR, you may safely substitute:

- 1) N99, N100, R95, R99, R100, P95, P99 or P100 FFR
- 2) Half/full facepiece APR with N95, N99, N100, R95, R99, R100, P95, P99 or P100 particulate filters. Combination chemical cartridge/particulate filter respirators or gas masks could also be substituted.
- 3) PAPR with HE particulate filter(s). Combination chemical cartridge/HE particulate filter PAPR may be substituted.

The photo to the right shows some examples of respirators that could be used as substitutes for an N95 FFR.

If N series filters are not listed on the label, the pesticide formulation or mix has oil or is oil-like. In these cases, the pesticide label requires use of R- or P-series filters. R-series may be used for one shift only. If you do add an adjuvant in a tank mix, use only R- or P- series filters. **DO NOT** use an N-series filter as the adjuvant could either contain oil or act like an oil.

Resources

Educational Publications at: <https://npsecstore.com/collections/respiratory-guides>

- Rutgers' Respiratory Protection for Occupational Users of Pesticides
- PERC Worker Protection Standard (WPS) Respiratory Protection Guide

Helpful Web Resources – <https://npsec.us/respirators>



Non-powered APR with Particulate Filtering Elements:
clockwise from bottom: N95 FFR; full facepiece APR with dual replaceable P100 filters; half facepiece APR with dual replaceable P100 filters; half facepiece APR with replaceable N95 filter (photo: © Rutgers)

Developed for NPSEC (4/18/2020) by Kerry Richards, NPSEC Education Program Developer. Contributing Authors: Pat Hastings, Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station and Thia Walker, CSU Extension. Graphic Designers: Kara Maddox, NPSEC & Kayle Burns, CSU.

Reviewers: Wayne Buhler, North Carolina State Extension; Dean Herzfeld, NPSEC; Jan Hygnstrom, Nebraska Extension; Robin Marcom, North Carolina Agromedicine Institute; Kay Sargent, Retired, University of Minnesota; Courtney Weatherbee, NPSEC; Michael Wierda, Utah State Extension; and Jessica Wilburn, North Carolina Agromedicine Institute