

# Development of Dust Respirators Made from Locally Available Materials

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## **Abstract**

Among the functions of the OSHC is to monitor the work environment with the use of industrial hygiene field and laboratory equipment. Based on actual field experience the staff observed that most establishments even those with dust control system still have dusty environment. It was also observed that workers are provided with inappropriate or ineffective respirators while others used ordinary cotton cloth to avoid inhaling harmful and toxic dusts.

The imported and commercially available dust respirators with higher filtering efficiency are quite expensive and therefore only large companies can afford them. The commonly used dust respirators made of foam are cheaper but have very low filtering efficiency and are not effective against harmful and toxic dust. In this context and due to the increasing clamor of companies for low-cost but effective respirators, the OSHC will develop two (2) models of efficient but affordable dust respirators made from locally available materials. These will be field tested to determine their acceptability by the workers.