

# Product Cleaning Guidance

## Respiratory Protection Equipment



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For COVID-19, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the use of cleaning products with EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claims. CDC refers to List N on the EPA website (<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>) for EPA-registered disinfectants that meet this guidance. Based on this guidance, the following methods may be used for Respiratory Protection Equipment, inclusive of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus, Air Purifying Respirators, Powered Air Purifying Respirators, and related accessories (adapters, cylinders, etc.).

### Product Cleaning Guidance

- MSA's Confidence Plus 2 cleaner is included on List N based on its EPA Reg. No., which begins with 47371-130. The active ingredients in Confidence Plus 2 are quaternary ammonium compounds, which are compatible with MSA's products.
- Other disinfectants on EPA List N may be used if they have quaternary ammonium compounds as their active ingredients and an EPA Reg. No. starting with 47371. Additionally, in Canada, products from Health Canada's list of disinfectants for use against COVID-19 may be used if they have an equivalent composition (<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/disinfectants/covid-19/list.html>).
- In European markets where Confidence Plus 2 or other EPA-registered disinfectants may not be available, alternative cleaning products that are water-based and have equivalent concentrations of quaternary ammonium compounds include EW80 mat disinfectant, Ecolab Incidin Rapid, and Ecolab Sekumatic FDR.

### Caution Regarding Use of Other Chemicals with MSA Respiratory Products

The CDC has provided guidance on disinfection using a solution of 2% bleach in water (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cleaning-disinfection.html>) and the EPA's List N includes a variety of other cleaning products, many of which have different active ingredients than Confidence Plus 2 (e.g., free chlorine, sodium or potassium hypochlorite, chlorine dioxide, peroxides, etc.). Such products may be used to disinfect MSA respiratory protection products if no other cleaning products are available that meet the criteria identified in this memo. Users are cautioned, however, that repeated longer-term use of these solutions may degrade some components of MSA products. Users must maintain stringent pre-use inspection procedures as outlined in the user manual to ensure the continued integrity of the products following repeated use of these solutions.

### Advice Regarding Filter Cartridges

**Cartridge exterior.** The exterior of the cartridge body may be wiped down using one of the cleaners described above. Care must be taken to ensure that liquid disinfectant solution does not touch the surface of the filter media itself. With all cleaning products, follow the manufacturer's instructions, including contact time to achieve disinfection.

**Filter media.** At this time there is no recommended method for disinfecting the filter element. Disposable filters should be discarded and replaced at least daily or more frequently as circumstances warrant according to CDC guidance regarding reuse of PPE potentially exposed to COVID-19. Consult the CDC website for the latest recommendations.

**Changeout schedule.** Disposable filters should be discarded and replaced at least daily or more frequently as circumstances warrant according to CDC guidance regarding reuse of PPE potentially exposed to COVID-19. Consult the CDC website for the latest recommendations.

In addition, the NIOSH Guide to the Selection and Use of Particulate Respirators (Publication Number 96-101) sets out different changeout requirements based on the type of particulate respirator:

*... The service life of all three categories of filters efficiency degradation (i.e., N-, R-, and P-series) is limited by considerations of hygiene, damage, and breathing resistance. All filters should be replaced whenever they are damaged, soiled, or causing noticeably increased breathing resistance (e.g., causing discomfort to the wearer)... R- or P-series filters can be used for protection against oil or non-oil aerosols. N-series filters should be used only for non-oil aerosols. Use and reuse of the P-series filters would be subject only to considerations of hygiene, damage, and increased breathing resistance. Generally, the use and reuse of N-series filters would also be subject only to considerations of hygiene, damage, and increased breathing resistance. .... R-series filters should be used only for a single shift (or for 8 hours of continuous or intermittent use) when oil is present.*

### Shelf Life of Filter Cartridges

All particulate-only cartridges and filters have an unlimited shelf life. This includes Flexi-Filters, Comfo® and Advantage® style P100 cartridges. Also, Type HE PAPR cartridges that are particulate-only have unlimited shelf life. These include Optifilter and OptimairTL Type HE cartridges.

Chemical and Combination cartridges for all APR and PAPR have a recommended shelf life of 3 years. Please note that these cartridges do not have an 'expiration date' printed on them.

Gas mask canisters, including industrial gas masks, CBRN and Riot control canisters have an expiration date printed on the cartridge label. Generally these are 5 year expiration. While the P100 or particulate performance efficacy of these types of canisters may remain intact following expiration, MSA cannot advocate use beyond the expiration date.

The situation with COVID-19 is rapidly evolving. As such, this guidance may be updated as circumstances warrant. Please visit MSA COVID-19 Resource Center (<https://us.msasafety.com/coronavirus>) to ensure that you have the latest version. Furthermore, organizations like the CDC are providing updated information and guidance as it becomes available. For the most-up-to date information on COVID-19, you should regularly consult guidance being published by national and international organizations, such as the CDC, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the World Health Organization (WHO), the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), and/or your local health authority. Guidance on COVID-19, including information on actions needed to prevent, control, and manage contact with the virus, is available at the following websites:

US CDC	<a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html</a>
US NIH	<a href="https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-officials-discuss-novel-coronavirus-recently-emerged-china">https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-officials-discuss-novel-coronavirus-recently-emerged-china</a>
WHO	<a href="https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus">https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus</a>
ECDC	<a href="https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/coronavirus">https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/coronavirus</a>

Note: This Bulletin contains only a general description of the products shown. While product uses and performance capabilities are generally described, the products shall not, under any circumstances, be used by untrained or unqualified individuals. The products shall not be used until the product instructions/user manual, which contains detailed information concerning the proper use and care of the products, including any warnings or cautions, have been thoroughly read and understood. Specifications are subject to change without prior notice.

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