

# RESPIRATORY PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (RPE) INFORMATION ALERT

## P2 RESPIRATORS VS N95 RESPIRATORS

The respiratory products standard in Australia and New Zealand is AS/NZS1716- Respiratory Protective Devices

This Standard specifies requirements for respiratory protective devices (respirators) intended to provide protection against atmospheres containing substances which may be harmful if breathed.

Guidance on the selection, use and maintenance of respirators is covered in AS/NZS 1715- Selection, Use and Maintenance.

Other classification systems globally include:

- NIOSH- The United States National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health classification
- EN- European (CE) standards for respirator classification.

Confusion may exist when products classified and marked under NIOSH or EN (CE) are sold in Australia

More specifically the comparison of the AS/NZS Standard (P2) vs NIOSH (N95) has caused confusion.

The testing protocol is outlined below in the table:

	AS/NZS	NIOSH
	P2	N95
Filter Efficiency	at least 94%	at least 95%
Testing Substance	Sodium Chloride Aerosol	Sodium Chloride Aerosol
Aerosol flow rate	95 litres / minute	85 litres / minute
Aerosol partical size (mass median diameter)	0.3 to 0.6 microns	0.3 microns

There are slight differences in airflow rates and particle sizes used in laboratory testing of filter efficiency globally. The above table represents the difference between (AS/NZS)-P2 and (NIOSH)-N95

The differences of filtering Efficiency (P2- 94% & N95- 95%) between the classification systems result in virtually no impact on the level of respiratory protection provided to wearers.

All PRO Choice respirators meeting P2 requirements of Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 1716 will also meet the requirements of the NIOSH N95 specification.

### Important Note:

Respirator fit is critical! In the event of a mask not sealing against the face correctly may cause inward leakage of outside contaminants. Factors that can contribute to a poor fit are:

- Incorrect donning of the mask. To learn how to correctly fit a disposable mask, please refer to the following link – [au.prochoicesafetygear.com/disposable-mask-fitting](http://au.prochoicesafetygear.com/disposable-mask-fitting)
- Facial Hair – Wearer must be clean shaven

Surgical Masks do not provide the same level of protection as a P2 Respirator. For more information please refer to the following link – [au.prochoicesafetygear.com/understanding-the-difference](http://au.prochoicesafetygear.com/understanding-the-difference)

## DISPOSABLE RESPIRATOR P2

