



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

## South Carolina Board of Nursing

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### **ADVISORY OPINION # 47**

**FORMULATED:** March 2004

**REVISED:** July 2007

**REVIEWED:** July 2005, May 2006

**QUESTION:** Is it within the role and scope of practice for the licensed registered nurse (RN) to perform an OSHA Respiratory evaluation questionnaire and approve Respirator use?

The Board of Nursing has determined that it is within the role and scope of practice of the licensed registered nurse (RN) to conduct the OSHA's mandatory questionnaire related to respirator use. The Board of Nursing supports the OSHA standard that the RN can complete the questionnaire and approve respirator use. Approval of a respirator is based upon negative responses to all questions on the OSHA questionnaire. If there is an initial positive response on the questionnaire, the RN will refer the employee to a licensed physician or advanced practice registered nurse (APRN). On subsequent evaluations, the RN will refer the employee to a licensed physician or APRN if there is not sufficient information to reach the necessary judgment of the employee's ability to safely use a respirator without limitations. The LPN CANNOT conduct the OSHA's mandatory questionnaire related to respirator use.

The Board recommends the employer verify competency in the performance of this skill and recognizes these skills as an additional act for the RN. If implementation is in order, then appropriate written policies, procedures, and standing orders should be developed which specify required special education and training. This special education and training should include documented safety practices and other didactic material as well as clinical skill competency components.

*This statement is an advisory opinion of the Board of Nursing as to what constitutes competent and safe nursing practice.*