

21<sup>st</sup> July 2009

Dear Sir/Madam

I am pleased to inform you that a shelf life of five years has been introduced for the 3M 1800 series Heath Care respirators and the 3M 8835 respirators. Product manufactured from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009 has boxes marked with an expiry date 5 years from the date of manufacture.

Stock of these products manufactured before 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009 held by Department of Health/NHS will be marked with a shelf life of 3 years from the date of manufacture.

3M are able to extend the shelf life of existing respirators by two years, providing that the products have been stored to our recommendations. These state that the products must be stored and transported in their original packaging, within the temperature range -20°C to +25°C and not exceeding 80% RH. The packaging and all contents must remain dry and not be stored in direct sunlight.

Each individual user should follow the product user instructions. Prior to any respirator use, 3M recommends that each respirator is inspected by each user prior to donning. If a user finds a respirator that has damage or deterioration to any component they should discard it and get a different respirator of the same model. Each user should also follow the donning instructions including a user seal check. If the user does not pass the user seal check then they should redon, try a different respirator of the same model or try a respirator of a different model.

Please consider this letter to be permission from 3M to add 2 years to the expiry date of 3M 1800 series and 3M 8835 respirators manufactured before 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009 providing the products have been stored as stated above.

If you have any questions relating to the above shelf-life extension or any other queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Leonad Shepherd  
General Sales and Marketing Manager  
3M Occupational Health and Environmental Safety