



Face Fit Testing



Introduction

Where respiratory protective equipment (RPE) is used as a control measure under Health and Safety Legislation, it is vital that the selected RPE is adequate and suitable. To ensure that the selected RPE has the potential to provide adequate protection for individual wearers, the ACoPs supporting the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health, the Control of Asbestos Regulations and the Control of Lead at Work Regulations stipulate that tight-fitting RPE must be fit tested as part of the selection process.

Note: A tight-fitting facepiece is a full face mask, a half mask, or a filtering facepiece (commonly referred to as a disposable mask). Fit testing is a method of checking that a tight-fitting facepiece matches the wearer's facial features and seals adequately to their face.

SSG offer Qualitative face fit testing which is only suitable for half mask, or a filtering facepiece (commonly referred to as a disposable mask).

NOTE: This type of fit testing is NOT suitable for full face masks and alternative fit test providers should be sought for such RPE.

All face fit testing is conducted in accordance with the HSE guidance note OC 282/28 by competent personnel.

We will fit test employees on RPE that has been issued to them, and delegates MUST bring issued RPE to be tested. If more than one type of RPE is used for different tasks all RPE should be brought for fit testing. Delegates must arrive clean shaven to ensure the fit test can be carried out accurately or the test will be cancelled.

If a delegate fails a fit test with their own RPE, SSG hold a stock of disposable respirators which can be used as an alternative to re-test.



Fit Test Duration

Each test will last approximately 15 minutes.



Who Should Attend

Those required to wear half mask, or a filtering facepiece (commonly referred to as a disposable mask) as part of their role.



Fit Test Programme

Each fit test includes:

- Brief explanation of the need for fit testing
- Explanation of the fit test procedure
- Coaching on getting the best fit with RPE
- Fit test
- Certificate of fit test



Certification and Assessment

Delegates will be assessed on their input during the practical exercise and their feedback. Course certification lasts three years.



Repeat Fit Testing

HSG 53 (RPE at work) states that it is good practice to have a system in place that ensures you carry out repeat fit testing of RPE on a regular basis. You should always conduct a repeat fit test if the wearer:

- Loses or gains weight
- Undergoes any substantial dental work
- Develops any facial changes (scars, moles etc) around the face seal area or if the type of RPE used changes



Suggested Follow on and Complementary Courses



Asbestos Awareness



Non Licensable Asbestos Works