



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 selected RPE has the potential to provide adequate protection, the ACoPs supporting the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (CoSHH), 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, 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 this training course for companies who want to conduct qualitative fit testing themselves, which is only suitable for half mask or a filtering facepiece.

All face fit testing is conducted in accordance with the HSE guidance note INDG479 by competent personnel.

Delegates on this course will be fit tested using the RPE issued to them and as such they must bring issued RPE with them to the course. If more than one type of RPE is used for different tasks, all RPE should be brought for fit testing. 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 retest.



Course Duration

Each test lasts approximately 15 minutes.



Course Attendees

This course is aimed at those who are required to wear a half mask or a filtering facepiece as part of their role.

Note:

Delegates attending this course **must** be clean shaven.



Course Programme

- 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



Training Certification and Assessment

On successful completion of the course delegates will receive an SSG course attendance certificate which is valid for 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 – for example scars or moles – around the face seal area
- The type of RPE used changes



Suggested Follow on and Complementary Courses

- Asbestos Awareness
- Asbestos Non-Licensed Operative