



QUALITATIVE FACE FIT TESTING

Where respiratory protective equipment (RPE) is used, it is essential that you have documentary evidence to show the RPE fits the wearer. By subjecting each wearer to a face-fit test you can be sure that your organisation is meeting and fulfilling HSE requirements.

The training is specific to each person and includes:

- How to check the mask is working properly before use
- How to identify worn or broken parts
- How to check the mask still fits
- Limitations of the mask to be used

Please note that in order for the face fit tests to work, the trainee **MUST NOT** eat, drink or smoke for at least 30 minutes before the test is performed. They must also be clean-shaven as stubble will prevent a good seal and the face fit test will fail. Failure to adopt this requirement will result in the person **NOT** being tested. If there are good reasons for having a beard (eg for religious reasons), alternative forms of RPE, that do not rely on a tight fit to the face, are available but must be provided by the delegate.

The delegate will then don the RPE, along with any additional PPE (personal Protective Equipment), while the tester places the hood over the head of the delegate. Either a sour or sweet solution will be sprayed into the hood to conduct a series of tests to ensure that the RPE is correctly fitted to the wearer's face.

If the face fit test fails, the mask will be rechecked, and any necessary adjustments made, such as the positioning or tightness of the straps. If the RPE fails again, it may be necessary to select an alternative model or size of mask.

A Certificate will be provided to each delegate who successfully passed this test.