



Quantitative RPE

Face Fit Test

Approximately 12,000 people die and 400,000 working days are lost every year through occupational respiratory diseases in the UK. It is estimated that 50% of RPE does not fit the user.

Overview

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. This is as per the PPE Regulations 2002 and HSG53 – RPE at Work which specifies the need for face fit testing and OC282/28 How to Face Fit.

This legislative requirement is often overlooked by employers, which could lead to either chronic or acute ill health of their employees. Anyone wearing a close fitted face piece (dust mask, respirator etc.) should undertake this test, including those wearing disposable RPE.

This type of test is suitable for frequent use or higher risk applications and for full and half face respirators with a particulate filter. This type of test is not suitable for disposable respirators.

Test Aims

The performance of tight-fitting face pieces depends on achieving a good contact between the wearer's skin and the face seal of the face piece. Peoples' faces vary significantly in shape and size so it is unlikely that one particular type, or size of RPE face piece, will fit everyone. Inadequate fit will significantly reduce the protection provided to the wearer.

Test Objective

A quantitative fit test measures the adequacy of a respirator's fit by numerically measuring the amount of leakage into the respirator. The Porta Count equipment works by measuring the concentration of microscopic dust particles in the ambient air and then measuring the concentration of those dust particles that leak into the respirator. The ratio of these two concentrations is called the fit factor. The filters stop essentially all the particles so anything that gets into the mask must have come through the face seal. A quantitative fit test is not affected by the person's sense of smell, taste or sensitivity to irritant chemicals.

Test Outline

- Delegate will be required to undertake a series of basic exercises to demonstrate suitable fit between the user and the mask.

Course delivery options:



Tailored



Open

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frequently asked questions...

The Test

Delivery	Tests can be undertaken on individuals or groups
Accreditation	Fit 2 Fit
Test Length	Approximately 15 minutes per person
Start / Finish Times	To suit
Maximum Group Size	Up to 4 persons can be tested per hour by one tester
Tailored to Specific Requirements	None
Course Material	None

Certification

Is there an Assessment?	A series of basic exercises to demonstrate the fit of the respirator
Are certificates issued?	Quantitative Face Fit Certificate
Valid for?	Recommended annually or if facial features change
When / how are they available?	Available for download from the NUK website upon completion

The Delegates

Prior Knowledge / Prerequisites	Wearers MUST be clean shaven. Moustaches / Goatees are permitted if they do not contact the face seal area of the mask. Wearers must refrain from smoking, eating and drinking 30 minutes before the test.
Needs to bring along	Please let us know the make, model and size of the respirator that you wish to be tested for as a test piece will need preparing in advance

The Venue

Course Location	At a venue of your choice or a Now u Know training centre
Venue Requirements	Please inform us of any mobility concerns
Non-NUK Venues	Must have adequate space, lighting and be well ventilated, 240v supply
Refreshment at NUK Venues	Available on request

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