

Fit Testing

and wearer training and certification
This is a qualitative Fit Test Service



Completed on site at work on agreed dates.

Undertaken by a Chartered Practitioner with IOSH who has also undertaken Fit Test training at the Health & Safety laboratory of the HSE

What is Fit Testing



Qualitative Fit Testing is a legal requirement to make sure that RPE fits & seals properly & if not then trying alternatives to achieve a fit. This type of fit test is designed for disposable RPE & half masks (not full face masks)



Why have Fit Testing --- The HSE notification to inspectors OC 282/28 (next review date 2022) States:

“...To ensure that the selected RPE has the potential to provide adequate protection for individual wearers, the ACOs supporting COSHH, CAR and CLAW stipulate that tight-fitting RPE [Respiratory Protective Equipment] must be fit tested as part of the selection process. This will help to ensure that inadequately fitting facepieces are not selected for use. Ill-fitting face pieces can create inward leakages of airborne contaminants.

Note: A tight-fitting face piece is, a half mask, or a filtering face piece (commonly referred to as a disposable mask). The performance of these types of face pieces, irrespective of whether they are used in negative pressure respirators...” or other types etc, relies heavily on the quality of the fit.

What is involved ---- Arrive with the face mask used at work plus any extra filters [eg: gas etc] used, if you have alternative masks then please bring them. We have a supply of face masks if yours does not fit etc. At the start essential training is provided on how to properly check & wear RPE. This training is certificated.

The test involves wearing a hood enclosure and a harmless bitter or sweet substance is introduced. If you can taste it while undertaking some routine movements for 60 seconds at a time then it is a fail. Care is taken for health conditions and disabilities.

If the RPE is not suitable then another design will be needed that fits properly (we do stock various types). Faces vary considerably and hence if the face mask test fails, it is no reflection on the person or the RPE, it is the face mask selection that needs to be reviewed. There must be no facial hair in the seal area on the face.

Pre-attendance guidance is provided for all candidates and the tests are done on one to one basis. Training on how to properly check and wear RPE is included in certification for each candidate with final results of the Fit Test showing the RPE suitable for each candidate.

Passport cards are provided showing the RPE that has passed for each person & certification.



Quotations by BST are provided for the course to meet your specific requirements and will vary dependant on the number of candidates, distance, and venue etc.

*The information above may be subject to change if directed by the HSE or statutory provisions etc.
If all the RPE brought by a candidate is not suitable the we will try RPE from our own stock.*

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