

FACE FIT TESTING — PRACTICAL SKILLS GUIDE

Specific Skills Reference Sheet

KEY KNOWLEDGE

Face fit testing ensures that tight-fitting RPE (such as half-face masks, full-face masks and filtering facepieces) forms an adequate seal against the wearer's face. There are two methods: qualitative (using taste or smell sensitivity) and quantitative (using an instrument). The test must be conducted by a competent person following the approved protocol. A fit test certificate must be issued for each pass, and testing must be repeated every 2 years or whenever the wearer's face shape changes significantly.

STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS

- 1 Select RPE**
Choose appropriate RPE for the hazard — consider contaminant type, concentration and work activity



- 2 Prepare**
Wearer must not eat, drink, smoke or use cosmetics for 20 minutes before the test



- 3 Check Facial Hair**
Remove any facial hair in the seal area — even stubble can prevent an adequate seal



- 4 Conduct Test**
Follow the approved qualitative or quantitative test protocol including all exercises



LEGISLATION & STANDARDS

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) | HSG53