

RESPIRATOR FIT TESTING

1729

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Employees using a tight-fitting respirator are required to be fit tested; prior to initial use of the respirator; whenever a different respirator (make, model, style, or size) is used, and at least annually thereafter.

- Fit testing procedures shall be done in accordance with CCR, T8, Section 5144 (f)(5) and Appendix A.
- The initial Qualitative Fit Testing (QLFT) protocol will be conducted with BITREX*.
- If an employee fails the BITREX* sensitivity test, use the Saccharin solution QLFT Protocol. It is not to be used as the initial test solution.
- Fit testing coordinators and fit testers are required to identify the type of fit testing enclosure used for each employee (QLFT protocols only); the fit test solution used (QLFT protocols only); and the specific equipment used for Qualitative Fit Testing (QNFT) protocols.
- Any (QNFT) protocol is acceptable, and can be used as the initial fit testing protocol or when an employee fails the sensitivity test to BITREX* and/or Saccharin.
- Employees who successfully pass the fit test will receive a fit test card indicating the make and model of the tight-fitting mask(s) and/or facepiece(s) that they were tested in and the size of the mask/facepiece. The card shall also include the expiration date. Fit testing is required on an annual basis and must be conducted before the expiration date on the card.
- Employees who do not successfully pass the fit test will be medically examined to determine their ability to wear a tight-fitting respirator.
- In the event that no available make, model, style or size mask/facepiece provides a positive fit test, the department will provide a mask at no expense to the employee.
- Additional fit testing shall be conducted when there are physical changes in an employee that could affect respirator fit.
- The RPPA shall be responsible for maintaining the fit testing records.

- If an employee wears a medical respirator for protection against M. Tuberculosis (TB), or other airborne communicable disease exposures, they need to be fit tested annually in the same manner as all other tight fitting respirators as per CCR, Title 8, Section 5144.

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