

RESPIRATOR FIT TESTING



KEY PERFORMANCE SOLUTIONS GROUP
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WHAT IS FIT TESTING?

A respirator fit test is a method for checking that a tight fitting facepiece matches the person's facial features and seals adequately.

Fit testing ensures that your employee's respirators fit securely providing maximum protection against hazardous airborne contaminants.

WHY FIT TESTING?

As per AS/NZS 1715:2009 standards, a proper fit is critical for workplace safety and compliance. This includes disposable N95/P2/P3s and reusable half-face and full-face masks.



OUR SERVICE

Our respirator fit testing uses the Aerofit Respirator Fit Testing system to quantitatively measure the leakage of a respirator when worn by an individual, thereby assessing whether the respirator is providing the required protection.

The Aerofit sets a new standard for user experience while delivering precise and objective results.

The Aerofit can generate a detailed report per user after the fit test, including the fit factor, pass/fail result, respirator model/size, test date/time, and operator.

On-site group testing available.

HOW OFTEN IS A FIT TEST REQUIRED?

An individual shall be fit tested prior to initial use and should be repeated annually as per requirements under AS/NZS 1715:2009.

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Is the respirator Fit Test legally required in Australia?

Under WHS/OHS laws, employers or people running a business (PCBUs) must make sure the workplace is safe and free of risk to health, as far as is reasonably possible.

Guidance on this is provided in AS/NZS 1715 which discusses respirator fit testing (for tight fitting respirators) as part of a complete respiratory protective program (RPP) and is an accepted way to meet the legal obligations with regard to supply of suitable and properly fitted respiratory protective equipment (RPE).

What types of respirators are required to be Fit Tested?

All types of tight-fitting respirators (negative and positive pressure) must be fit tested as required by AS/NZS 1715, AS/NZS ISO 16975.3:2023 and all other international RPE guidance.

This includes all disposable/filtering facepieces (FFP), reusable half face, reusable full face including those attached to a powered air purifying respirator (PAPR) or supplied air source such as SCBA cylinder and compressed airline hose.

How long does a Fit Test take?

Respiratory Fit Testing with the AeroFit machine takes approximately 15 minutes if a pass is achieved.

When to conduct a Fit Test?

Respirator fit testing is required prior to the initial use of a tight fitting respirator and/or when a different size, style, model or make is used.

A fit test should be repeated when a person has a significant change in body weight, a change to the face in the sealing area (e.g. scarring facial surgery), dental changes and/or wearer discomfort.

AS/NZS IOS 16975.3:2023, AS/NZS 1715, ISO 16975-3:2017 and OSHA 1910.134 all recommend periodic fit testing be conducted annually to confirm ongoing fit over time.

Why is it a requirement to be clean shaven when wearing a respirator?

Many studies show that the presence of facial hair between the sealing surface area and the skin can significantly reduce the expected level of protection.

Many hazards like asbestos, silica, mould, bioaerosols are many times smaller than a single facial hair and can bypass between them.

A tight-fitting respirator has been selected as part of a control strategy to provide an expected level of protection. With facial hair the expected protection is not predictable or reliable.