

## **Toolbox talk – Respirator Fit-testing**

Personnel required to wear any tight-fitting respirator must successfully complete a respiratory fit-test before initially using the respirator, and annually thereafter.

EHS provides respiratory fit-testing for all personnel required to use a respirator, and upon request for voluntary respirator users. Quantitative testing is the standard method, but qualitative testing methods are also available when needed.

Individual respirator users can schedule a fit test through the EHS training management systems. Supervisors must contact the RPP Administrator or designee to arrange for fit-testing of larger groups.

Before a fit test can be performed the following conditions must be met;

- A training certificate or other verification of training completion must be presented by the user or supervisor to EHS prior to the test;
- A copy of the Physician's Statement must be provided by the user or supervisor to EHS prior to the test;
- The user must have no clothing or facial hair that may interfere with the respirator seal or valves (if present) at the time of the fit test.
- The user must demonstrate proper inspection, donning, fit checks and doffing techniques for the particular respirator at the fit-testing.
  - In most cases, it is the responsibility of the supervisor or user to provide the respirator for the fit testing. Supervisors or users should contact EHS before purchasing tight-fitting respirators. Fit-testing this type of respirator requires special adapter kits provided by the manufacturer. EHS can make recommendations based upon those respirators for which kits are available.
  - Since there are various manufacturers' and sizes available, it is recommended that more than one respirator manufacturer's and size be available, if feasible. This will reduce the potential for a return visit, if an acceptable fit is not obtained with a specific respirator and size.
  - Upon successfully completing a fit-test the user will be provided with a Respirator Fit-test Card that includes the test date, the manufacturer, respiratory type, model and size. EHS also retains electronic records of all individuals who have successfully completed a fit-test.
  - Individuals who are unable to successfully complete a fit-test of any tight-fitting respirator may use a hooded or helmeted powered-air-purifying respirator (PAPR), if it is determined by EHS that they provide adequate protection for the intended use. These users will be provided with a PAPR card stipulating that they must use a PAPR.