



UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

Safety Office Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) Respiratory Protection Fit Testing

I. Introduction

This SOP supports the University of Wyoming (UW) Respiratory Protection Program by providing specific information regarding respiratory protection fit testing. Fit testing is required prior to being allowed to utilize respiratory protection equipment with a tight fitting face piece (negative or positive pressure); at least annually; and when there are changes in the employee's physical condition that could affect a sufficient respirator fit [for example, obvious changes in body weight (20 pounds or more); facial scarring that would interfere with the face seal; cosmetic surgery that would interfere with the face seal; dental changes, or other conditions that may affect the sealing surface of the face piece to the face]. Respirator fit testing is conducted by UW's Occupational Health Provider, Grand Avenue Urgent Care. For specific questions regarding this SOP, contact the Respiratory Protection Program Administrator at: 766-3203.

II. Scope

This SOP applies to the UW Respiratory Protection Program fit testing process for new enrollees and current enrollees.

III. Procedure

Grand Avenue Urgent Care will schedule and complete respiratory protection fit tests once the required documentation has been received. If the required documentation is not complete, the fit test will not be scheduled.

The fit testing protocol utilized is the generated aerosol quantitative fit test (QNFT). Grand Avenue Urgent Care will conduct fit tests following the QNFT protocol as described in 29 CFR 1910.134, Appendix A.

UW personnel will be fit tested with the make, model, and size of respirator they will actually utilize. Personnel will be provided with various respirator models and sizes so they may find the respirator that provides an optimal fit.

Fit testing of tight fitting, powered air-purifying respirators (PAPRs), if applicable, is conducted in the negative pressure mode.

Personnel must be clean shaven between the sealing surface of the face-piece and the face in order to achieve a tight fit with the respirator. Fit testing will not be completed if facial hair is present between the sealing surface of the face piece and the face. More than slight beard stubble at the sealing surface is considered excessive facial hair. Other conditions that might interfere with the face piece's sealing surface or that interferes with face piece valve function will be identified during the fit test and corrected immediately, if possible, before continuing with the fit test.



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If a fit test was not completed due to facial hair, the employee is prohibited from utilizing the respirator.

Personnel who have a medical condition that may preclude their ability to remove facial hair must consult with their Department Director/Manager/Supervisor and the Program Administrator. If necessary, the employee may be referred to the PLHCP for additional follow up.

If personnel experience difficulty breathing or exhibit a severe psychological reaction during fit testing, stop the fit test immediately and refer the employee to the PLCHP for reevaluation.

Personnel who require corrective lenses must ensure their eyeglass frames do not interfere with their respirator seal. If an employee is unable to wear their eyeglasses with a half face respirator, a full face respirator will be utilized instead with the appropriate spectacle kit. Eyeglasses with temple bars cannot be worn with full face respirators.

The Program Administrator can provide a spectacle kit recommended by the equipment manufacturer. The employee is responsible for the procurement and installation of their prescription lenses in the spectacle kit.

When the fit test is successfully completed, the fit test report will be signed/dated by the employee and the fit test administrator. One copy of the signed fit test will be provided to the employee for their Supervisor and another copy will be maintained by the Program Administrator.

Fit tests must be completed annually.

IV. References

UW Safety Office Respiratory Protection Program
29 CFR 1910.134