

Fit Testing

Chapter 296-842 WAC

Rule

WAC 296-842-15005

Conduct fit testing

- (1) Provide, at no cost to the employee, fit-tests for **all** tight fitting respirators on the following schedule:
 - (a) Before employees are assigned duties that may require the use of respirators
 - (b) At least every 12 months after initial testing
 - (c) Whenever any of the following occurs:
 - A different respirator facepiece is chosen such as a different type, model, style, or size
 - You become aware of a physical change in an employee that could affect respirator fit. For example, you may observe, or be told about, facial scarring, dental changes, cosmetic surgery, or obvious weight changes
 - An employee notifies you, or your LHCP, that the respirator fit is unacceptable. During the retest, you must give an employee reasonable opportunity to select a different respirator facepiece (size, model, etc.).



Note:

You may accept a fit-test completed by a previous employer **if**:

- You obtain written documentation of the fit-test
- and**
- The results of the fit-test aren't more than 12 months old
- and**
- The employee will use the same respirator (the same type, model, style, and size)
- and**
- The fit test was conducted in a way that meets the requirements of WAC 296-842-150 and 296-842-22010.

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WAC 296-842-15005 (Continued)

- (2) Select and use an appropriate fit-testing procedure from WAC 296-842-22010 of this chapter
- (3) Use quantitative fit-test methods when a negative pressure respirator will be used in concentrations requiring a protection factor greater than 10. This includes:
 - Full facepiece air-purifying respirators
 - SCBAs operated in demand (negative pressure) mode
 - Air-line respirators operated in demand mode.
- (4) Make sure tight-fitting PAPRs, SCBAs, or air-line respirators are fit tested in negative-pressure mode. This must be done by either:
 - (a) Temporarily converting the respirator user's actual facepiece into a negative pressure respirator using the appropriate filters

or

 - (b) Using an identical negative pressure air-purifying respirator facepiece as a surrogate for the SCBA, air-line or PAPR. The surrogate facepiece must have the same sealing surfaces as the SCBA, air-line, or PAPR.

Remove any modifications made to the respirator facepiece for fit testing and return the facepiece to the NIOSH approved configuration before the facepiece is used in the workplace.
- (5) Make sure the person conducting fit testing is able to do **all** of the following:
 - (a) Prepare test solutions if required
 - (b) Make sure equipment works properly
 - (c) Perform tests properly
 - (d) Recognize invalid tests
 - (e) Calculate fit factors properly if required.



Note:

- No specific training program or certification is required for those who conduct fit tests.
- You should consider evaluating these individuals to determine their proficiency in the fit-testing method to be used.
- You can use an evaluation form such as the form included in the American National Standard for Respirator Fit Testing Methods, ANSI/AIHA Z88.10-2001 to determine if the individual meets these requirements. Visit www.ansi.org or www.aiha.org.

