

# Occupational Health Hazard Specialists

## Respirator fit testing

### What is respirator fit testing?

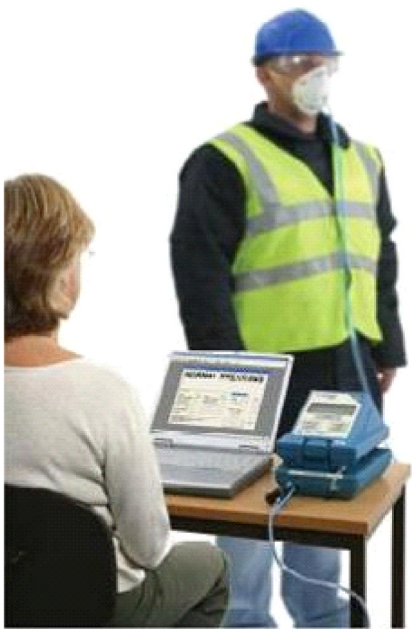
Respirator fit testing uses a portacount machine to quantitatively measure the leakage of a respirator when worn by an individual, thereby assessing whether the respirator is providing the required protection.

### Why carry out a respirator fit test?

The Australian Standard AS/NZS 1715 deems it essential as part of the respiratory program, that a face-fitting respirator be properly fitted to the individual for whom it is assigned, via a facial fit test. The quantitative respirator fit test guarantees clients precise evidence and documentation of results for each individual employee – in compliance with the Australian Standards.

### What does respirator fit testing consist of?

The individual dons a face-fitting respirator which is connected to the 'Portacount Plus' machine. The fit test consists of a series of breathing and head movement exercises. Measurements are taken, and a pass or fail score is calculated at the end of the test.



### What does fit testing prove?

Quantitative respirator fit testing provides an assurance of respirator seal. Based on the specifications of the mask, the fit test determines whether that particular mask will provide the required protection for that individual.

### How long does the respirator fit test take?

Allocating 20 minutes per individual allows time for the completion of a respirator fit test plus instruction and training on the correct use, fitting and maintenance of the respirator, and legally required records.

Respirator fit testing can be performed on a wide variety of face-fitting respirators, from disposable dust masks to full-face respirators.

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