



Company Name: _____ Job Site Location: _____

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ Finish Time: _____ Foreman/Supervisor: _____

Topic 278: Respiratory Protection (Part B)

Introduction: Many work-places, due to the nature of their airborne contamination, require the intermittent or regular use of respirators. Before assigning workers to a job-site where regular breathing protection will be required, provisions for **Medical Evaluation** requirements must be met before even training can begin. The purpose of a medical evaluation program is to ensure that any employee required to use a respirator can tolerate the physiological burden associated with its use.



The initial evaluation must be conducted prior to the worker's fit test. The regulation provides a standard questionnaire that includes the required information to be provided to the **Physician or other Licensed Health Care Professional (PLHCP)**, who is to conduct the evaluation.

The PLHCP is to be given copies of the written respiration program and the OSHA regulations, and must be informed of the following:

- **The type and weight** of the respirator to be used by the employee
- **The duration and frequency** of respirator use (including use for rescue and escape)
- **The expected physical work** effort and any additional protective clothing that will be worn
- **Temperature and humidity** extremes that may be encountered



Based on this information, the **PLHCP** may also require a follow-up physical medical examination before issuing the written recommendations that would include any restrictions or limitations on the employee's respirator use, and any need for follow-up evaluations. The **PLHCP's** determinations regarding an employee's physical fitness, establishes individual use guidelines. These records must be retained.

Additional medical evaluations will be needed when:

- **An employee reports** medical signs or symptoms that are related to his or her ability to use a respirator
- **A PLHCP, supervisor, or the Respirator Program administrator** determines that an employee needs to be re-evaluated
- **Information** from the "Program", including observations made during fit-testing and program evaluations, indicate a need for re-evaluation
- **A change occurs** in work-place conditions (e.g., physical work effort, change in protective clothing requirements, temperature) that result in a substantial increase in the physiological burden placed on an employee

Fit Testing: Must be conducted prior to initial use, upon changes to the type of face-piece used, (or upon changes to the employee that could affect fit) and at least annually. Before an employee uses a respirator with a tight-fitting face-piece, they must be "**Fit Tested**" with the exact same unit they will be using. Employers must provide sufficient selection of respirator models and sizes so that unit is acceptable to, and correctly fits the user.

- **An appropriate fit test** must be passed by all employees using tight-fitting face-piece respirators. Always follow the manufacturer's recommended guidelines and procedures provided with the unit's instruction sheet, as they are protocol compliant.
- **Additional fit tests** must be done when an employee reports or relevant supervisory staff makes visual observations of, changes in the employee's physical condition that could affect respirator fit, such as: facial scarring, dental changes, cosmetic surgery, or obvious change in body weight.
- **If after passing an initial fit test,** an employee subsequently notifies supervision that the fit of the respirator is unacceptable, the worker must be given a reasonable opportunity to select a different respirator face-piece and be re-tested.
- **Fit test records** for respirator users must be retained until the next fit test is administered.



Summary: It is important to determine if a worker is physically able to perform the given work assignment while being subjected to prolonged respirator use. Of equal importance is a respirator that works properly and fits well. If the breathing protection being used is not functioning properly, it may be more of a risk than not even wearing one because of being lulled by a false sense of security by having one on.

This concludes part (b) of Respiratory Protection. Part (c) covers respirator use, maintenance and care, identification of filters, canisters, and cartridges, training and information, program evaluation, and recordkeeping.

Work Site Review

Work-Site Hazards and Safety Suggestions: _____

Personnel Safety Violations: _____

Employee Signatures: _____ (My signature attests and verifies my understanding of and agreement to comply with, all company safety policies and regulations, and that I have not suffered, experienced, or sustained any recent job-related injury or illness.)

Foreman/Supervisor's Signature: _____
 These guidelines do not supercede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.