

SMH Products Ltd.

PORTACOUNT QUANTITATIVE FACE FIT TESTING PROCEDURES FOR ASBESTOS REMOVAL OPERATIVES

We are required to comply with HSE Workshop instructions as discussed with HSE on 23/24th February 2000, and subsequent HSE operational circular OC 282/28 18/09/2000

Please Ensure:-

Operatives should use their own mask whenever possible. Mask Testing is available.
Wear mask for 2 minutes before commencing test to ensure body temperature in mask is reached.
Operatives must be clean shaven, we cannot undertake face fit testing on operatives who have beards, stubble, or have sideburns which interfere with the mask fitting.
Spectacles must not be worn, purpose made spectacle holders must be used.
Operatives have been adequately trained in RPE by their employers. (HSE INDG288 11/99)
Operatives are competent in donning a facemask.
Operative must perform a "suck down" test on their own mask if used.
When we test operatives on their own masks these must have a current test certificate, if this is not enclosed it can be provided, at extra cost.
Operatives must not have smoked within 60 minutes of the test.
Masks used in the Face Fit Test must be CE Marked and of the same manufacture, model and age of mask used on a daily basis by the operative.
If you are unable to continue the test then stop.

We would advise:-

Operatives have read and understand "selection of suitable respiratory protective equipment", HSE booklet INDG288 11/99 C150. Copies available at £1.00 per copy or from the HSE.

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Protocol, Procedure in undertaking tests.

STEPPING ACTION TO TAKE PLACE THROUGH ALL TESTS EXCEPT TOUCHING TOES

- | | | |
|---|---------------------|--|
| 1 | Normal Breathing | Each test procedure to take 80 seconds |
| 2 | Deep Breathing | Step quickly, up required, 40 steps to purge lungs of all air |
| 3 | Head Side to Side | 40 off, breath in one side, breath out at the other extreme |
| 4 | Head Up and Down | 40 off, inhale up, exhale down |
| 5 | Talking | Recite Alphabet or count backwards slowly from 100 when shouting
Read "Rainbow Passage" of text |
| 6 | Bend and Touch Toes | Bend as you would in an enclosure, mime picking up and passing bags, vacuuming up, etc. |
| 7 | Normal Breathing | Note each procedure to take 80 seconds |

Ambient Air Particles

Tests can only be conducted if the air particles are within the following parameters:-

Minimum 3,000 particles per cc, Maximum 40,000 particles per cc

Tests cannot be conducted in very clean or very dusty rooms where particles are outside the above parameters. Doors must be capable of being closed in the test room, close doors.

Portacount Quantitative Face Fit Test

The test measures the particles in the mask against the ambient air particles, the higher the ambient air particles the higher the test result reading will be. The test does not compare one mask against another, but compares the particles within the mask to those outside the mask.

A test fails when excessive particles are measured within the mask. A normal room has approximately 12,000-16,000 ambient air particles.

Test Results

An interpretation of the result will be explained to you.

A result over 2000 is needed to achieve a pass, dependant upon the ambient air particle a test result of around 20,000 is normal, very high or very low results should be investigated.

Reasons for failing tests should be explained to you at the time of the test.

If you have very high pass rate, over 100,000 the reason will be explained to you.

Failed tests are due to air leakage in or around the masks, this should be felt by the person under test.

High results are achieved with a perfect face seal and using an excellent P3 filter.

Re-Tests

Re-test immediately if the result is borderline, that is between 2000 - 3000.

Re-test annually, or when facial features change, after dental surgery, when new masks are purchased, when operative has had a weight loss or weight gain. The HSE ask for current face fit test certificates.

Notes:

This test is a momentary test reflecting conditions in which the test was conducted only at the time of the test

No two tests are ever the same.