FIT TESTING

What You Need To Know | Pre-Test Prep | Fit Testing Fees

Pre-Visit Check List

1) All test Subjects must be clean shaven!

2) Have passed Medical Evaluation. Should you need Evals visit 3M

3) Supply of Respirators in all sizes & cartridges for each respirator.

4) Testing Room set up?

5) For Quantitative Fit Testing we must be advised of the Make & Model of the respirator to be tested in advance to ensure we have the correct adaptor for the TSI-Portacount.

6) All Test Subjects must have their own respirator, or the correct “fitted” respirator discovered during testing. Respirator sharing is not permissible under the law.

If test subjects do not meet the above criteria at the time of our service visit, the pre-agreed upon service fee will remain in force. Failure to prepare, or fit test failure will not result in a pro-rated service fee.

Northwest Response Qualitative & Quantitative Annual Respirator Fit Testing Services

We have been providing Qualitative & Quantitative fit testing to our clients on-site throughout Western Washington since 2012. We offer onsite Fit Testing Services by appointment.

For Medical Evaluations we choose 3M the leader in Respiratory protection equipment and medical clearances.

Service Fees:

Unless prearranged, All service fees are due at the time of service, check or credit cards gladly accepted.
Medical Evaluations

Northwest Response in partnership with 3M provides a convenient on-line method for medical evaluations.

The service is $28.00 per person with easy administration of records.

To get started; enroll in the 3M program by visiting this link.

You must retest your employees annually. Expired cards could result in very severe penalties.

Service: Qualitative (QLFT)
Typically Half Mask

Our minimum on-site call is $400.00. Covers the first 10 fit test (mileage fees may apply) Each additional Fit Test is $40, each test per respirator, per person.

Unless you are in an environment that requires full face protection such as asbestos abatement, fire fighting, escape, or SCBA. Qualitative (QLFT) is most likely the test you will need. Unsure? Please check with your on-site HSE, or call us for more information.

Service Quantitative (QNFT)
Full Face

Our minimum on-site call is $600.00. Covers the first 10 fit test (mileage fees may apply) Each additional Fit Test is $60, each test per respirator, per person.

When L&I calls and your employee is required to have a Fit Test Card, they must be able to present the card.

Northwest Response provides laminated “Fit Test Cards” to each subject tested, and a fit test record for your HR department within 48 hours of the testing date.
Please Note:

All employees using a negative or positive pressure tight-fitting facepiece respirator must pass an appropriate qualitative fit test (QLFT) or quantitative fit test (QNFT). Fit testing is required prior to initial use, whenever a different respirator facepiece is used, and at least **annually** thereafter.

An additional fit test is required whenever the employee reports, or the employer or PLHCP makes visual observations of changes in the employee's physical condition that could affect respirator fit (e.g., facial scarring, dental changes, cosmetic surgery, or an obvious change in body weight).

The fit test shall be administered using an OSHA-Accepted QLFT or QNFT Protocol, as contained in OSHA Respiratory Protection (Standards 29 CFR), 1910.134  App A.

Respirators that don't seal properly around the face offer only the illusion of protection. To accommodate the variability of face size characteristics among individuals, a number of manufacturers offer facepieces in several sizes and models.

**Purpose.** The primary purpose of fit testing is to identify the specific make, model, style, and size of respirator best suited for each employee. In addition, fit testing also provides an opportunity to check on problems with respirator wear and reinforces respirator training by having wearers review the proper methods of donning and wearing the respirator.

**Requirement.** Fit testing is required for all negative or positive pressure tight-fitting facepiece respirators. The OSHA respiratory protection standard requires that fit testing be performed before an employee first starts wearing a respirator in the work environment, whenever a different respirator facepiece is used, and at least annually thereafter.

**Method.** Prior to the actual fit test, the employee must be shown how to put on a respirator, position it on the face, set strap tension, and determine an acceptable fit. Next, the employee must be allowed to choose a respirator from a sufficient number of models and sizes so that the employee can find an acceptable and correctly fitting respirator. Once an acceptable respirator has been found — which takes into account the position of the mask on the face, nose, and cheeks; room for eye protection; and room to talk — a user seal check must be conducted.

**Types of Fit Testing.** Fit testing may either be qualitative (QLFT) or quantitative (QNFT), and must be administered using an OSHA-accepted QLFT or QNFT protocol. These protocols are described in mandatory Appendix A to 1910.134.

Prior to the commencement of the fit test, the employee must be given a description of the fit test, and a description of the exercises that he or she will be performing during fit testing. The respirator to be tested must be worn for at least five minutes before the start of the fit test. The employee must be fit tested with the same make, model, style, and size of respirator that will be used in the workplace.
Qualitative fit testing (QLFT). Qualitative fit testing involves the introduction of a gas, vapor, or aerosol test agent into an area around the head of the respirator user. A determination is then made as to whether or not the wearer can detect the presence of the test agent through means such as odor, taste, or nasal irritation. If the presence of the test agent is detected inside the mask, the respirator fit is considered to be inadequate. There are four qualitative fit test protocols approved in OSHA’s standard.

The isoamyl acetate (IAA) test determines whether a respirator is protecting a user by questioning whether the user can smell the distinctive odor of IAA. Both the saccharin and Bitrex™ tests involve substances with distinctive tastes that should not be detected through an effective respirator. The irritant smoke (e.g., stannic chloride) test involves a substance that elicits an involuntary irritation response in those exposed to it. Before conducting a qualitative test, the worker must undergo a sensitivity test to determine if he or she can taste, smell or react to the substance. When performing the isoamyl acetate test, the protocol requires that separate rooms be used for the odor screening and fit tests, and that the rooms be sufficiently ventilated to ensure that there is no detectable odor of IAA prior to a test being conducted. This will prevent olfactory fatigue among workers being fit tested by preventing a buildup of IAA in the general room air.

Quantitative fit testing (QNFT). In a quantitative fit test, the adequacy of respirator fit is assessed by numerically measuring the amount of leakage into the respirator. This testing can be done by either generating a test aerosol as a test atmosphere, using ambient aerosol as the test agent, or using controlled negative pressure (CNP) to measure the volumetric leak rate. Appropriate instrumentation is required to quantify respirator fit.

Got CPR, AED & First Aid Training?

Northwest Response is approved by the American Red Cross, & The American Safety and Health Institute to deliver Lay Responder through EMR First Aid, CPR/AED Training from BLS to Adult & Pediatric.