

New vs. Old: OSHA Details Changes in Standard

Old .139	Old Language	New .134	New Language
—	The old standard did not address fit-testing in detail, but paragraph (e)(5)(i)-(iii) did require that training provide the opportunity to respirator wearers to have respirators properly fitted; that workers receive fitting instructions including demonstrations and practice; the face piece be fit checked each time it is donned; qualified individuals fit face piece and lenses to ensure good vision, comfort, and a gas-tight seal when a worker must wear corrective lenses as part of the face piece; and when corrective spectacles or goggles are worn, prior to initial use of the respirator, whenever a different respirator face piece (size, style, model) or they do not affect the fit of the face piece.	(f)	Fit-testing. This paragraph requires that, before an employee may be required to use any respirator with a negative- or positive-pressure tight-fitting face piece, the employee must be fit-tested with the same make, model, style, and size of respirator that will be used. This paragraph specifies the kinds of fit-tests allowed, the procedures for conducting them, and how the results of the fit-tests must be used.
		(f)(1)	The employer shall ensure that employees using a tight-fitting face-piece respirator pass an appropriate qualitative fit-test (QLFT) or quantitative fit-test (QNFT) as stated in this paragraph.
		(f)(2)	The employer shall ensure that an employee using a tight-fitting face-piece respirator is fit-tested prior to initial use of the respirator, whenever a different respirator face piece (size, style, model, or make) is used, and at least annually thereafter.
		(f)(3)	The employer shall conduct an additional fit-test whenever the employee reports, or the employer, PLHCP, supervisor, or program administrator makes visual observations of, changes in the employee's physical condition that could affect respirator fit. Such conditions include, but are not limited to, facial scarring, dental changes, cosmetic surgery, or an obvious change in body weight.
		(f)(4)	If after passing a QLFT or QNFT, the employee subsequently notifies the employer, program administrator, supervisor, or PLHCP that the fit of the respirator is unacceptable, the employee shall be given a reasonable opportunity to select a different respirator face piece and to be retested.
		(f)(5)	The fit-test shall be administered using an OSHA-accepted QLFT or QNFT protocol. The OSHA-accepted QLFT and QNFT protocols and procedures are contained in Appendix A of this section.
		(f)(6)	QLFT may only be used to fit-test negative-pressure air-purifying respirators that must achieve a fit factor of 100 or less.
		(f)(7)	If the fit factor, as determined through an OSHA-accepted QNFT protocol, is equal to or greater than 100 for tight-fitting half face pieces, or equal to or greater than 500 for tight-fitting full face pieces, the QNFT has been passed with that respirator.
Old .139	Old Language 15 Nothing comparable	(f)(8)(i)-(iii)	<p>(8) Fit-testing of tight-fitting atmosphere-supplying respirators and tight-fitting powered air-purifying respirators shall be accomplished by performing quantitative or qualitative fit-testing in the negative-pressure mode, regardless of the mode of operation (negative or positive pressure) that is used for respiratory protection.</p> <p>(i) Qualitative fit-testing of these respirators shall be accomplished by temporarily converting the respirator user's actual face piece into a negative-pressure respirator with appropriate filters, or by using an identical negative-pressure air-purifying respirator face piece with the same sealing surfaces as a surrogate for the atmosphere-supplying or powered air-purifying respirator face piece.</p> <p>(ii) Quantitative fit testing of these respirators shall be accomplished by modifying the face piece to allow sampling inside the face piece in the breathing zone of the user, midway between the nose and mouth. This requirement shall be accomplished by installing a permanent sampling probe onto a surrogate face piece, or by using a sampling adapter designed to temporarily provide a means of sampling air from inside the face piece.</p> <p>(iii) Any modifications to the respirator face piece for fit-testing shall be completely removed, and the face piece restored to NIOSH-approved configuration, before that face piece can be used in the workplace.</p>

[See Appendix A]

Source: Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Washington, DC.