



Wilkins Safety Group

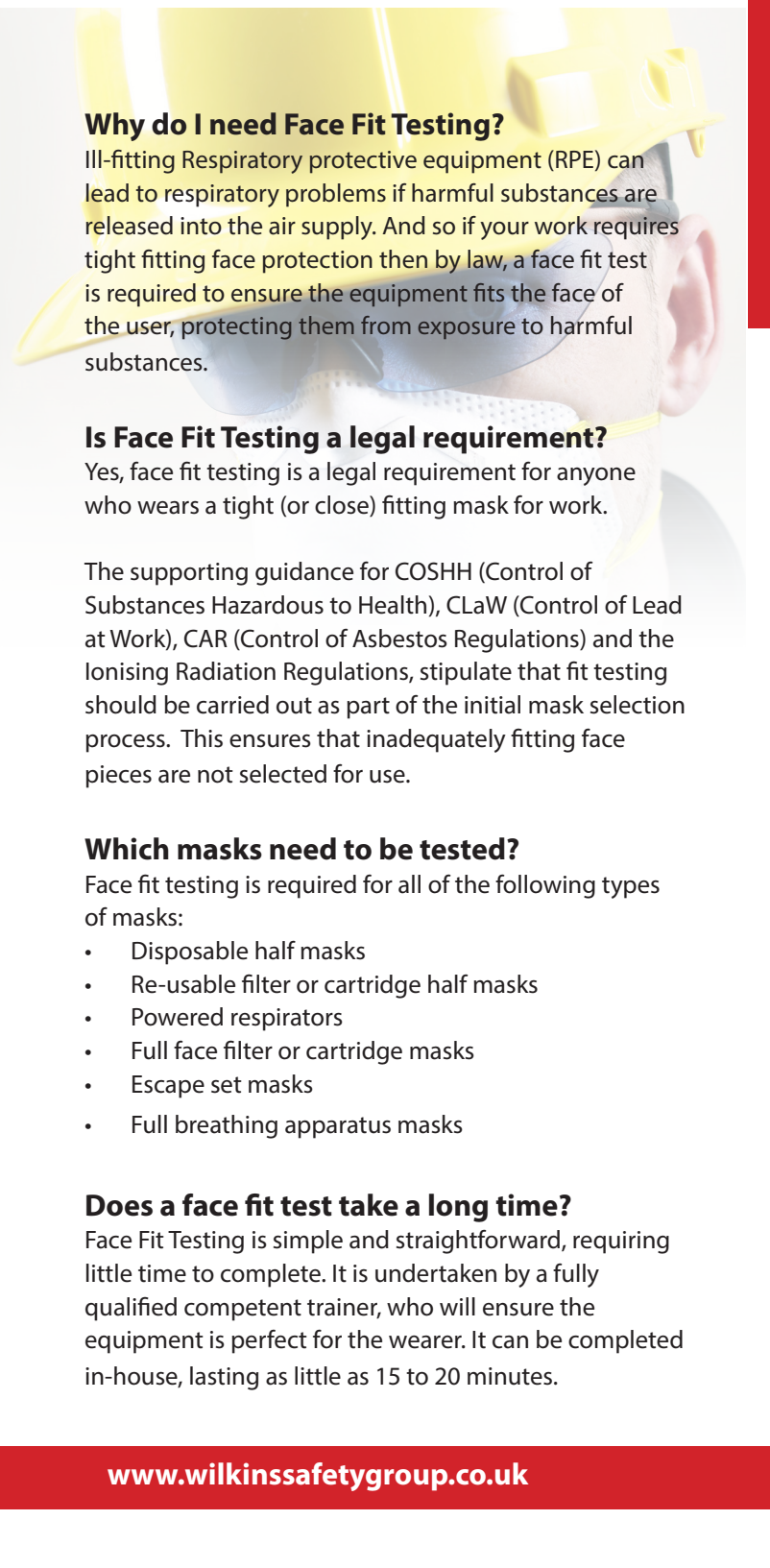
Award Winning Health & Safety Consultants

Face Fit Testing Service

Legal requirement for for anyone who wears a close fitting mask for work.

25
YEARS
ANNIVERSARY

BSIF Fit2Fit Fit Testers Accredited



Why do I need Face Fit Testing?

Ill-fitting Respiratory protective equipment (RPE) can lead to respiratory problems if harmful substances are released into the air supply. And so if your work requires tight fitting face protection then by law, a face fit test is required to ensure the equipment fits the face of the user, protecting them from exposure to harmful substances.

Is Face Fit Testing a legal requirement?

Yes, face fit testing is a legal requirement for anyone who wears a tight (or close) fitting mask for work.

The supporting guidance for COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health), CLaW (Control of Lead at Work), CAR (Control of Asbestos Regulations) and the Ionising Radiation Regulations, stipulate that fit testing should be carried out as part of the initial mask selection process. This ensures that inadequately fitting face pieces are not selected for use.

Which masks need to be tested?

Face fit testing is required for all of the following types of masks:

- Disposable half masks
- Re-usable filter or cartridge half masks
- Powered respirators
- Full face filter or cartridge masks
- Escape set masks
- Full breathing apparatus masks

Does a face fit test take a long time?

Face Fit Testing is simple and straightforward, requiring little time to complete. It is undertaken by a fully qualified competent trainer, who will ensure the equipment is perfect for the wearer. It can be completed in-house, lasting as little as 15 to 20 minutes.

Who can carry out a face fit test?

Competency can be proven by accreditation to the BSIF Fit2Fit Fit Testers Accreditation Scheme, however this is not compulsory. Manufacturers of fit test equipment may also provide competency training and evaluation and proof of these may be sufficient to prove competency.

What does the test involve?

There are two types of test.

The qualitative test can only be carried out on half masks. The test takes around 20 minutes and involves wearing a hood over the head and shoulders. The tester sprays a bitter tasting solution into the hood whilst the delegate carries out a series of exercises, i.e. turning head from side to side. If the wearer can taste the solution, then the mask does not fit correctly.

The quantitative test can be carried out on any type of mask. There are several different methods for this test. The most common method involves attaching the mask to a machine (a Portacount), which can detect whether airborne particles are passing into the mask through the seal. Again the test takes around 20 minutes and at the end of the test the machine gives a 'pass' or 'fail'.

When should I book a test?

Face fit tests should be booked to coincide with the initial choosing of the equipment. If you already have tight-fitting face masks that remain untested but in use, you should consider it a priority to book a test, so that you are compliant with the law, and protecting your employees.

Is the test only carried out once?

It is recommended that you re-test the RPE regularly, and especially if the wearer has:

- lost or gained weight,
- undergone serious dental work, or
- developed any facial changes
- just to ensure that the mask still fits and is protecting the employee.

Award Winning Health and Safety Consultants

We are here to help

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in our hands ..***