Santa Cruz County Fit Testing Guide

What is Fit Testing?

A "fit test" tests the seal between the respirator's (e.g. N95 Mask) facepiece and your face. It takes about fifteen to twenty minutes to complete and should be performed at least annually. After passing a fit test with a respirator, you must use the exact same make, model, and size respirator on the job.

Employees **must** be fit tested before using a respirator in the workplace. *Example:* if an employee receives a fit test for an 1870 N95 mask, then they are only approved to wear that mask while they are working. If they are provided with an 1860 N95 mask, then they should be re-fit tested.

Who Can Conduct Fit Testing?

- Fit Testing can be outsourced through local vendors or conducted in-house by an experienced fit tester.
- Experienced fit testers should follow the Occupational Health and Safety Association (OSHA) standards for medical requirements *(OSHA doesn't require fit test administrators to be certified, just to know how to conduct a test, recognize invalid tests, and properly clean and maintain equipment).*

Note: Fit testing does require an annual medical evaluation to ensure the respirator safety.

Local Vendor:

- FAST Fit Testing; local to the Santa Cruz area.
    - Contact Information: drcasey@fastresponseonsite.com; (831)477-2867.
- Precision Mobile Testing:
    - Contact Information: (831)228-1251 or (831) 319-9817

Previous Fit Testing:

Fit testing can be done by your employer or an outside party, including a union, an apprenticeship program, a contractor's association, or a past employer. Your current employer is permitted to accept fit testing you have received from an outside party (such as a former employer) within the last 12 months, as long as you use the same respirator make, model, style, and size at your new worksite.

Resources:

- NIOSH approved Surgical N95
- Seven Steps to Putting on a Respirator
- Frequently Asked Questions around Respiratory Fit Testing
- NIOSH-Approved Respirators
- Qualitative Vs. Quantitative Fit Testing

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