

RPE Face Fit - FACTSHEET

What do I need to know?

Respiratory Protective Equipment (**RPE**) is used to **PROTECT** the wearer against occupational respiratory hazards. One common RPE is a **TIGHTFITTING FACE PIECE**; often referred to as a **MASK**. Protection is achieved by creating a seal against the wearers face which prevents **EXPOSURE to the HAZARD**.

To achieve a good **SEAL**, the wearer **MUST** be clean shaven as facial hair creates an entry point for **AIR** that may cause **HARM to HEALTH**.

CLEAN SHAVEN is facial hair which has been shaved within 8 hours prior to shift.

What do I need to know when choosing RPE?

Respiratory Protective Equipment should be both **ADEQUATE** and **SUITABLE**.

- **ADEQUATE** – it is right for the hazard and reduces exposure to the level required to protect the wearer's health
- **SUITABLE** – it is right for the wearer, task and environment, such that the wearer can work freely and without additional risks due to the RPE.
- **REMEMBER:** Ensure your mask has a minimum **FILTER** of **FFP3**

Some common types of RPE are...



Half mask and full face tight-fitting masks



Air fed systems

The correct fit

RPE is available in different sizes and types, such as those listed adjacent, to allow for the facial differences of workers.

Gender, build and many other **FACTORS** mean that one size **DOES NOT FIT ALL**. A **FIT TEST** of such face pieces **MUST** therefore be undertaken.

Clean Shaven

Ensure you are **CLEAN SHAVEN** in the area the sealed fit is required.

If you are not clean shaven and wear a tight fitting RPE, you could be breathing **HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES** which may lead to **ILL HEALTH** such as **LUNG CANCER** or **SILICOSIS**.