

Does fit testing tight fitting respiratory protection increase work place protection?

An estimated 5 million workers are required to wear respirators in 1.3 million workplaces throughout the United States. US OSHA requires fit testing tight-fitting respirators as part of a respiratory protection program. The violations of the OSHA respiratory protection regulation is usually in the OSHA “Top 10 list” of cited violations every year. As the ISO Respiratory Protection standards near publication, questions are circulating regarding the need for fit testing tight-fitting respirators. The basis of these questions seems to revolve around a basic question; ‘Does Fit Testing Increase Work Place Protection’? This paper will show evidence that indeed it does.