

Facial Hair Guidelines for Fit Testing



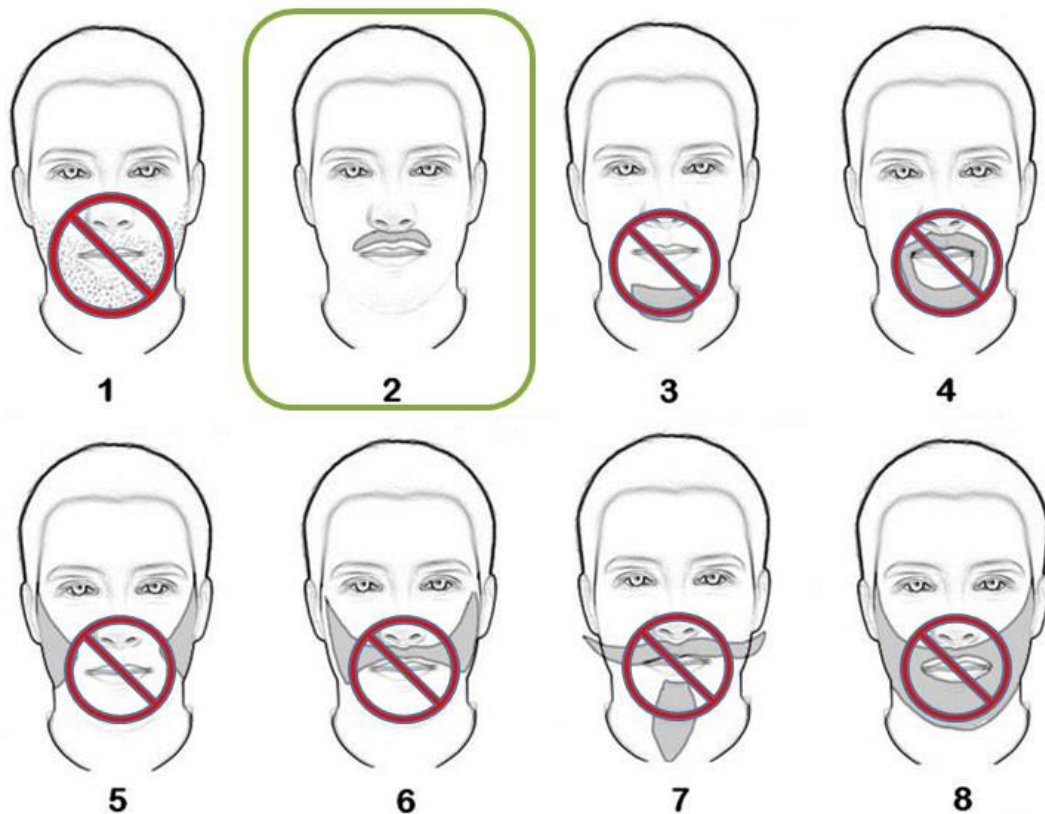
Application Note RFT-025 (A4)

Facial Hair Guidelines

Fit Testing standards do not permit facial hair that interferes with the sealing surface of the respirator or interferes with the valve function of the respirator.

The illustrations below are examples of facial hair patterns that interfere with the sealing surface of a respirator, with the exception of illustration 2. For most respirators, a moustache, like illustration 2, can be trimmed to prevent interference with the sealing surface or the valves in the respirator.

Facial hair in the sealing surface of a respirator can allow contaminants to leak into the mask, putting the respirator user at risk of exposure to the contaminants. For the respirator to provide the assigned protection factor, the respirator must form a tight seal to the user's face. Facial hair prevents this seal, and must be managed for respirator users.



Top to bottom from left to right: Stubble (1), Moustache (2), Goatee (3), French Cut (4), Mutton Chops (5), "Friendly" Mutton Chops (6), Van Dyke (7), Full Beard (8)

Source – WIKIPEDIA (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Facial_hair)

OSHA 1910.134 (US)

1910.134(g)(1): Facepiece seal protection.

1910.134(g)(1)(i): The employer shall not permit respirators with tight-fitting facepieces to be worn by employees who have:

1910.134(g)(1)(i)(A): Facial hair that comes between the sealing surface of the facepiece and the face or that interferes with valve function; or

1910.134(g)(1)(i)(B): Any condition that interferes with the face-to-facepiece seal or valve function.

CSA Z94.4-11 (Canada)

9.2.2 Facial hair

Individuals shall present themselves for fit testing free from interference of hair where the respirator seals to the skin of the face or neck.

Although the rate of hair growth varies (see examples of acceptable and unacceptable facial hair in Annex M), for many this requires being clean-shaven within the previous 24 or preferably 12 h to ensure that hair neither infringes on the sealing surface of the respirator nor interferes with valve or respirator function.



Knowledge Beyond Measure.

USA Tel: +1 800 680 1220
UK Tel: +44 149 4 459200
France Tel: +33 1 41 19 21 99
Germany Tel: +49 241 523030

India Tel: +91 80 67877200
China Tel: +86 10 8219 7688
Singapore Tel: +65 6595 6388

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