

Leakage Measurements on Wearers of Respiratory Protective Equipment with Facial Hair/Beards/Spectacles: Summary of a Literature Search

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The efficiency of certain types of facepiece relies to a large extent on the face-to-facepiece seal. On examination, the results of a literature search overwhelmingly concluded that facial hair and spectacle side arms have a detrimental effect on facepiece seal leakage. What also became clear was that the extent of the effect varies considerably and that the effect of beards and spectacles cannot be taken in isolation; other factors, such as fitting and movement must also be taken into account. It is assumed by some that the use of positive-pressure equipment will solve the problem, but the evidence suggests that this is not the case and that inward leakage still occurs. Comparisons between individual studies reviewed are difficult because of the differences in the test/measuring equipment used and the test subjects.



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