

# NFPA 1500 STANDARD REQUIRES QUANTITATIVE FIT TESTING

According to the most recent (2013) release of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1500 Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health: quantitative respirator fit testing is required for tight fitting, atmosphere supplying respirators and other full-face respirators. Qualitative fit test methods like Saccharin, Bitrex, Banana oil and irritant smoke are no longer permitted for those respirators types.

**Below is an excerpt from the section on NFPA 1500-2013 that concerns fit testing:**

- 7.13 Fit Testing
- 7.13.1 The facepiece seal capability of each member qualified to use RPE shall be verified by quantitative fit testing following procedures set forth in 29 CFR 1910.134, "Respiratory Protection", and ANSI Z88.2, "Practices for Respiratory Protection", on an annual basis and whenever new types of RPE or facepieces are issued.
- 7.13.2 The fit of the RPE of each new member shall be tested before the members are permitted to use RPE in a hazardous atmosphere.
- 7.13.2.1 Only members with a properly fitting facepiece shall be permitted by the fire department to function in a hazardous atmosphere with RPE.
- 7.13.3 Fit testing of tight-fitting atmosphere-supplying respirators and tight-fitting powered air-purifying respirators shall be accomplished by performing quantitative fit testing in the negative-pressure mode, regardless of the mode of operation (negative or positive pressure) that is used for respiratory protection.
- 7.13.4 Quantitative test protocols shall be conducted as required by the AHJ.
- 7.13.5 Records of facepiece fitting tests shall include at least the following information:
  - (1) Name of the member tested
  - (2) Type of fitting test performed
  - (3) Specific make and model of facepieces tested
  - (4) Pass/fail results of the tests
- 7.13.6 If a satisfactory fit cannot be achieved for an individual with one design of facepiece, the fire department shall work with the manufacturer of the respiratory protection equipment (RPE) to find a facepiece design that fits satisfactorily for that member.



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