MISSOURI SAFE@WORK
SAFER TOGETHER

TOOLBOX TALK: RESPIRATOR SEAL CHECKS
Understanding the User Seal Checks

Employees wearing tight fitting respirators should perform user seal checks each time a respirator is put on. These checks are required by OSHA and a full description of the proper procedure to perform a user seal check can be found in Appendix B-1 of OSHA's Respiratory Standard (29 CFR 1910.134).

HOW TO PERFORM USER SEAL CHECKS:

STEP ONE: To perform a positive pressure check, cover the exhalation valves of the respirator and exhale gently. This type of seal check is done to see if the facepiece pulls away from the face. If no air leaks out under slight pressure, then it passed.

STEP TWO: To perform a negative pressure check, cover the inlet opening of the respirator and inhale gently and hold your breath for a few seconds. If the facepiece remains slightly collapsed on the face but does not allow air inside, then it passed.

You can also use the respirator manufacturer's recommended procedures for performing a user seal check if you can demonstrate that the manufacturer's procedure is equally effective. If you cannot perform both the positive and negative checks, it is recommended that you consult the manufacturer's recommendations.

If air leakage occurs during any seal checks, then the respirator and/or straps should be adjusted to achieve a better seal. After both the positive and negative pressure checks have been completed, then work may begin.

We Are Here

Do you have a question about safety and health? Contact us and we can assist you in making your workplace safer.

safeatwork.mo.gov

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Do not confuse an annual fit test with a user seal check. Quantitative or qualitative fit testing is required to be done initially and annually thereafter, while user seal checks should be done each time the respirator is put on.

I understand the information presented and the importance of performing seal checks on respirators regularly.

COMPANY:_____   DATE:_____

EMPLOYEE NAME: EMPLOYEE SIGNATURE:

_____   _____

_____   _____

_____   _____

_____   _____

_____   _____

_____   _____

_____   _____

_____   _____

_____   _____

_____   _____

_____   _____

_____   _____

_____   _____

_____   _____

Learn more ways to keep your workplace safe.
Visit safeatwork.mo.gov.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

LS-101-2 (03-19) AI