

THE RESPIRATOR FIT TEST

Handlers working with pesticides requiring a respirator must:

- first get a medical evaluation
- second, do the annual fit test
- third – be given respirator training

Alternate Options

- Switch to a pesticide that does not require respirators
- Use a loose fitting Powered Air Purifying Respirator (does NOT exempt Handler from the medical evaluation)
- Cabs with a positive pressure carbon filter No longer exempts the Handler from the need to wear a respirator
- TC84-A is still exempt in the cab

Loose Fitting Powered Air Purifying Respirator



The Medical Evaluation

- Is NOT a physical but might lead to a physical if there are red flags
- The evaluation might be a once & done deal – open ended
- The evaluation might need to be repeated every year, 2 years, 3 years...

Medical Evaluation Providers

- Online providers – quick & easy & probably cheapest.
- If you have “red flag issues” you’ll probably end up going for a physical
- Contractors offer in office evaluations & some do it by mail.
- Can be done by any licensed health care provider

Documentation

- Maintain medical evaluation documentation at least two years
- Handlers with open ended medical evaluations need to keep them longer

Actual Fit Test

- Can be done by a contractor
- Some local fire companies will do these for a small donation.
- Can be done in house with a fit test kit.

Cheaper in costs and time

Kits come with directions that must be followed

The Fit Test

- Use your regular respirator
- If you use different respirators test all of them
- Put the respirator on & first do a seal check, then do the actual test.
- Follow the directions!
- If the test cannot be passed it is time to get a new or different respirator
- Document! Keep test documentation at least two years!

Respirator Training for Employee Handlers

- How to clean the respirator
- How often to change out filters & cartridges
- Doing the seal check – EACH time you use it!
- Document training & keep on file at least two years

WPS Resources

Jim Harvey

jd18@psu.edu

814-863-8214

EPA-Approved WPS Training Materials

- In December, EPA announced an indefinite delay in the requirement for the new training materials.
- There is new EPA approved materials out there.
- We now have a new approved orchard WPS DVD.
 - Worker & Handler training
 - English & Spanish
- We also have an EPA Worker training DVD Handbook in English
- Our Greenhouse WPS training DVD is approved and now available.

Other Resources

- Pesticide Education Resources Collaborative (PERC)

www.pesticideresources.org

Facebook – Worker Protection Standard –PORH

Website – <http://www.porh.psu.edu/porh/farm-worker-protection-safety-program>