



Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE)

Good Practice Guidance on controlling exposure to chemicals that cause platinum sensitisation

Content

1. Glossary	3
2. Introduction	4
3. Types of RPE	5
4. Designation of RPE use zones and tasks	7
5. RPE selection/suitability	7
6. Assuring appropriate fit and fit testing	10
7. Use of RPE - good practices before, during and after use	12
8. Use of RPE for emergency use situations	17
9. RPE maintenance and disposal	17
10. Training	17
11. Program review and audit	18
12. Record-keeping	18
13. Audit Questions (Optional)	19

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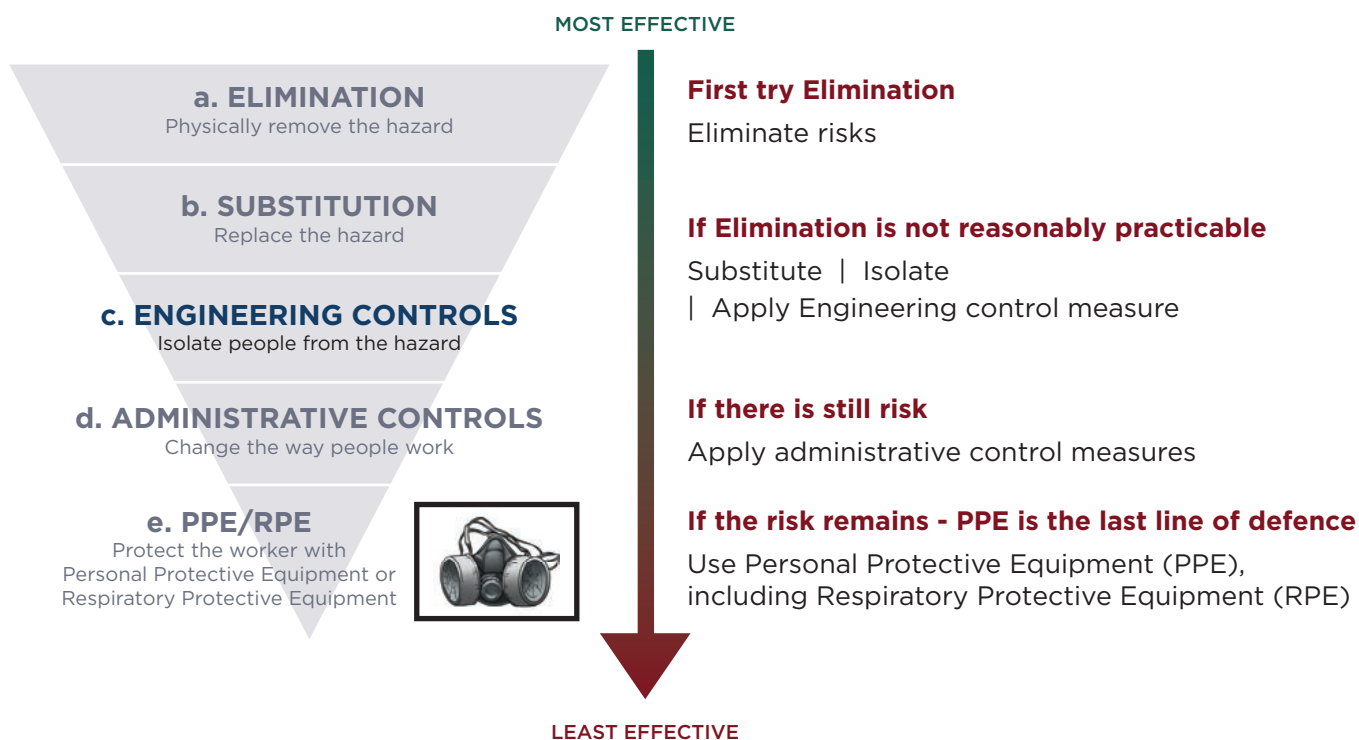
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1. Glossary

Adequacy	PPE is good enough (adequate) if it can reduce exposure to a level that's considered acceptable, such as below the published Occupational Exposure Limit (OEL). This ensures that there are no adverse health effects.
Assigned Protection Factor (APF)	The assigned protection factor (APF) is the level of respiratory protection that 95% of trained and supervised wearers can realistically achieve while using a properly functioning and fitted device during its service life. An APF of 20 means the concentration of the contaminant inside the RPE should be at least 20 times lower than the concentration of the contaminant outside the RPE.
Clean-Shaven	Free from any facial hair. Facial hair (beard, moustache, goatee, sideburns, or excessive stubble) may prevent a proper seal between the respirator and the face and allow contaminated air to enter.
Employer	An employer can be a person, company, or organisation that pays someone for their work. They are responsible for making decisions and spending money for the organisation or production unit.
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	PPE is equipment workers wear to protect them against one or more hazards (chemical, physical, biological, environmental, etc.).
Quantitative Fit Test (QNFT)	A test to check if a respirator fits properly by measuring how much air leaks into it.
Qualitative Fit Test (QLFT)	A test to see if a respirator fits properly, where the individual's reaction to test agents determine if they pass or fail.
Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE)	RPE is a type of protective gear that shields the wearer from breathing in dangerous substances like gases, dust, fumes, and more that are in the air.
Service Life	This is the duration during which a respirator or respiratory equipment provides adequate protection. The manufacturer must provide information on the service life and how to recognize signs of damage or ageing that make it unsafe to use.
Suitability	For PPE to be suitable, it must be appropriate and adequate considering factors like heat, visibility, how long it will be used, and cost, as well as its durability and how long it is effective.
User seal check – negative pressure	A way for RPE wearers to check if their respirator fits properly by covering the inlet opening of the canister or cartridge(s) with the palm of their hand, gently breathing in and holding their breath for ten seconds. If the facepiece stays slightly collapsed and there's no air leakage, the respirator fits properly.
User seal check – positive pressure	Another way for RPE wearers to check if their respirator fits properly is by closing the exhalation valve and exhaling gently into the facepiece. The face fit is considered good if there is a slight positive pressure inside the facepiece and no air leaks out of the seal.
Visual inspection	Before using RPE, the wearer must inspect it following the manufacturer's instructions. This includes checking the facepiece, valves, straps, gaskets, diaphragm, and lens, if applicable.
Wearer	A worker who is trained and required to wear PPE, including respiratory protective equipment (RPE). Local regulations may also require them to be medically cleared and fit-tested for the selected RPE.

2. Introduction

Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) helps to reduce exposure to platinum group metal substances and chemicals associated with their processing. However, a chemical exposure risk assessment should first be done to guide decisions on the necessary controls to implement first, as RPE, which forms part of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), is the least effective control according to the hierarchy of controls. So, only when a chemical hazard cannot be eliminated or substituted, and all feasible controls to isolate people from the hazard (such as engineering and administrative controls) have already been implemented and exposure still poses a risk, then we must protect ourselves using PPE/RPE.



Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) protects workers against exposure via inhalation, while additional PPE, such as protective clothing, aprons, gloves, gauntlets, safety glasses, goggles, and face shields, protect against absorption through the skin/physical contact.

This guideline will explain:

How to choose appropriate RPE, use it correctly, manage it safely, and care for it properly.
Workers must be trained on the user instructions specific to their workplace and operating processes.

3. Types of RPE

There are various different types of RPE that fall into four categories based on how air is provided for the wearer to breathe:



Air-purifying respirators (APR)

A respirator that has an air-purifying filter, cartridge, or canister that removes air contaminants when air is passed through it.

Powered air-purifying respirators (PAPR)

An air-purifying respirator that uses a blower/fan unit to force air through filters that remove air contaminants before being breathed in by the wearer through a breathing hose/tube.



Supplied air respirators (SAR)

A respirator that is supplied with clean, breathable air through a tube from a source that's separate from the wearer.

Self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA)

A respirator that is supplied with clean, breathable air through a tube from a compressed air tank that's carried by the wearer.



Different mask options may be available for each type of RPE - for example:

- quarter mask



- half mask



- full-face mask



- helmet/hood



Assigned Protection Factors (APFs)

The type of RPE and the type of mask offer different levels of protection to the wearer, and is referred to as the Assigned Protection Factor (APF). APF values can range from 5 to 10,000. An APF of 20 means the concentration of the contaminant inside the RPE should be at least 20 times lower than the concentration of the contaminant outside the RPE.

Note:

APFs are provided by RPE manufacturers. However, national authorities also prescribe APFs for different types of RPE and mask combinations. Therefore, it is important to consult both the manufacturer and national guidance.

	Air-purifying respirators (APR)	Powered air-purifying respirators (PAPR)	Supplied air respirators (SAR)	Self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA)
RPE Type				
Mask options	Half mask	- Half mask - Full mask	- Half mask - Full mask	- Half mask - Full mask
Work rate/time	Medium/less than 1 hour	Medium-heavy/more than 1 hour	Medium (unassisted/less than an hour) Heavy (assisted/powered - more than 1 hour)	Heavy/more than 1 hour
Fit test	Qualitative and Quantitative	Half mask - qualitative and quantitative. Full mask - quantitative	Half mask - qualitative and quantitative. Full mask - quantitative	Half mask - qualitative and quantitative. Full mask - quantitative
Protection against	Gas or vapour and solid or liquid particles	Solid or liquid particles, gas or vapour depending on filter type	Gas or vapour and solid or liquid particles	Gas or vapour and solid or liquid particles
APF	10-20	10-40	10-40	2,000

4. Designation of RPE use zones and tasks

If a site has processes that could release hazardous substances, like chloroplatinates, steps must be taken to minimise health risks. This can be done through engineering, procedural, and organisational measures. If these measures aren't enough to control exposure and risk, appropriate PPE, including RPE, must be worn.

There should be clear signs at the entrances to areas where PPE/RPE must be worn so that workers know what PPE and RPE they need to wear.



5. 6. RPE selection/suitability

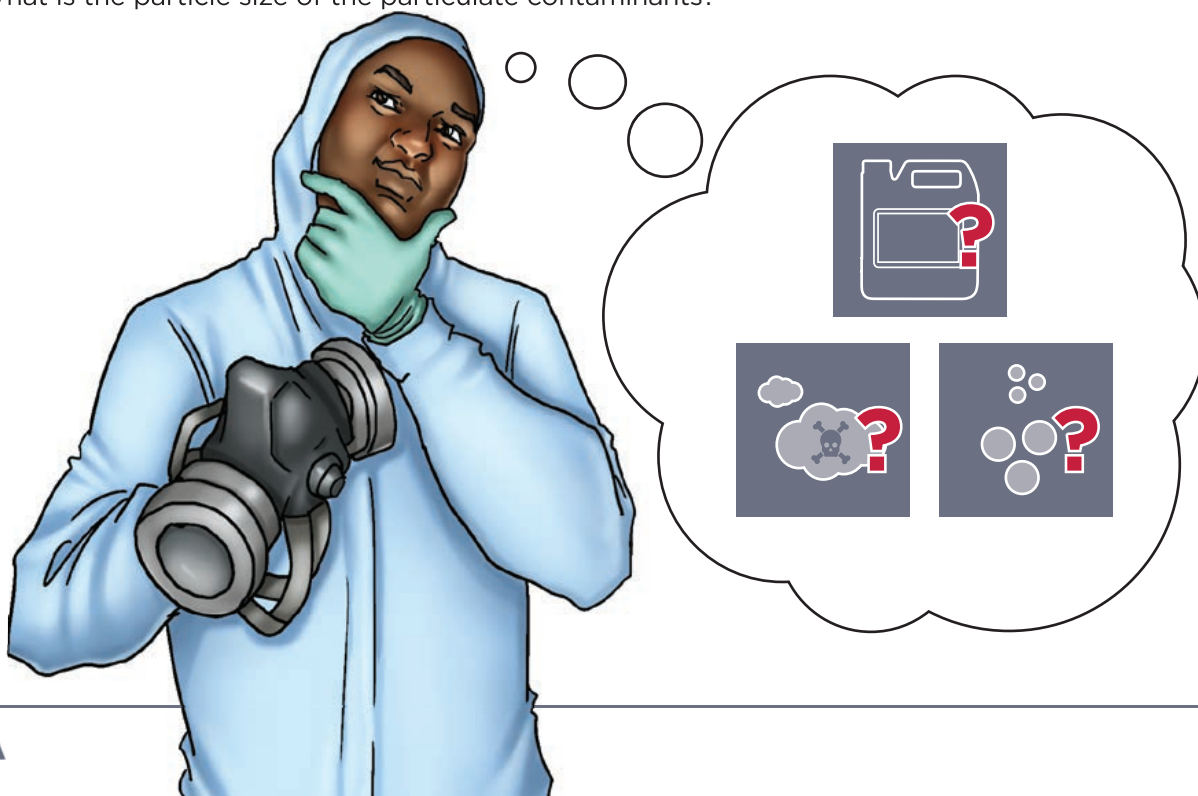
Choosing the correct type of RPE, and respirator cartridges, for the type of contaminants the user will be exposed to is vital to offering the best respiratory protection.

When choosing RPE, consider the following:

1. Contaminants

The selection of RPE will be determined by a risk assessment and should consider the following factors:

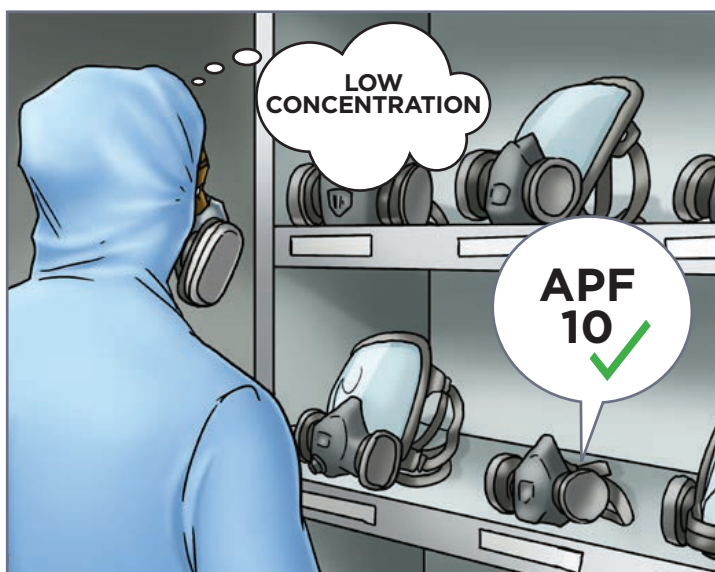
- What chemical hazards are present in the work area (e.g. chloroplatinates, chlorine, acid mists, etc.)?
- What are the states of the chemical hazards (e.g. dust, particulates, vapour, gas)?
- What is the particle size of the particulate contaminants?



2. APF needed

For protection against hazardous chemicals in the air (e.g. chloroplatinates), choose a suitable respirator, with a sufficient Assigned Protection Factor (APF), based on the concentrations of the chemicals present in the workplace. Being trained on how to properly use a respirator will increase its effectiveness.

Filters also offer different protection and are usually colour-coded according to what they are best suited to protect against. Below are European and American examples of colour coding, which may vary from country to country, so only use the below as examples. Ask your supervisor or manager for the correct colour code chart for your country/region.



Filter types				
Colour code	Type	For use against	Class	Other information
White	P	Particles	1 2 3	European standard: EN 143
Brown	A	Organic gases and vapours, boiling point above 65 °C	1 2 3	European standard: EN 14387
Grey	B	Inorganic gases and vapours	1 2 3	European standard: EN 14387 Do not use against carbon monoxide
Yellow	E	SO ₂ and other acid gases	1 2 3	European standard: EN 14387
Green	K	Ammonia and its organic derivatives	1 2 3	European standard: EN 14387
Red & white	Hg P3	Mercury	–	European standard: EN 14387 Includes P3 particle filter Maximum use time 50 hours No class number
Blue & white	NO P3	Oxides of nitrogen	–	European standard: EN 14387 Includes P3 particle filter Single use only No class number
Brown	AX	Organic gases and vapours, boiling point at or below 65 °C	–	European standard: EN 14387 Single use only No class number
Violet	SX	Substance as specified by the manufacturer	–	European standard: EN 14387

Respirator Cartridge Color Coding		
Cartridge Color		Cartridge Use
White	WHITE	ACID GASES Hydrogen Chloride, Sulfur Dioxide, Hydrogen Sulfide Hydrocyanic Acid Vapor
White with 1/2" GREEN stripe completely around canister at bottom	WHITE with 1/2" GREEN stripe completely around canister at bottom	Pure Chlorine
White with 1/2" yellow stripe completely around canister at bottom	WHITE with 1/2" yellow stripe completely around canister at bottom	Pure Chlorine
Black	BLACK	ORGANIC VAPORS (OV)
Yellow	YELLOW	ACID GAS with ORGANIC VAPORS Organic Vapors with Hydrogen Chloride, or Sulfur Dioxide, or Hydrogen Sulfide, or Hydrogen Fluoride Hydrocyanic Acid and Chloroform vapor
Green	GREEN	AMMONIA GAS Ammonia, or Ammonia and Methylamine Ammonia and Acid Gases
Chartreuse	CHARTREUSE	FORMALDEHYDE
Magenta	MAGENTA	RADIOACTIVE (Excludes Noble Gases and Tritium) PARTICULATES (Dusts, Fumes, Fog, Smoke, and in combination with any above gas or vapor)
Brown	BROWN	MULTI-GAS, or MULTI-GAS and OV, or MULTI-GAS and ACID GAS, or ALL
Orange	ORANGE	MERCURY VAPOR Also used as a 1/2" stripe color to represent gases not included in this table)
Blue	BLUE	CARBON MONOXIDE
Red with 1/2" gray stripe completely around canister near top	RED with 1/2" gray stripe completely around canister near top	All the above contaminants in one canister

<https://www.palmbeachstate.edu/safety/documents/respiratory-protection-program.pdf>

3. Compatibility

When using RPE, it should work well with other necessary PPE to provide complete protection for the worker throughout its use. For instance, if safety glasses are needed, a half piece RPE may not fit properly and won't provide adequate respiratory protection. So, it's important to choose RPE that is compatible with the required combination of PPE for intended protection. Some RPE masks provide protection for eyes and nose/mouth and are more comfortable.



4. Tasks/work rate

Tasks that require higher work rates increase the breathing and sweating of those wearing RPE and can affect their RPE's performance by allowing facepieces to slip and leak. Select RPE while considering if your task will involve a low-, medium- or heavy-work rate.



(stationary or inactive work):
most RPE would be suitable.

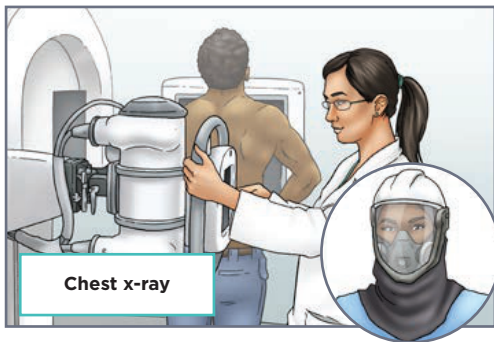


(random handling or carrying of moderately heavy material, pushing or pulling a heavily laden cart, etc.):
consider more comfortable RPE, such as powered respirators or loose-fitting devices.



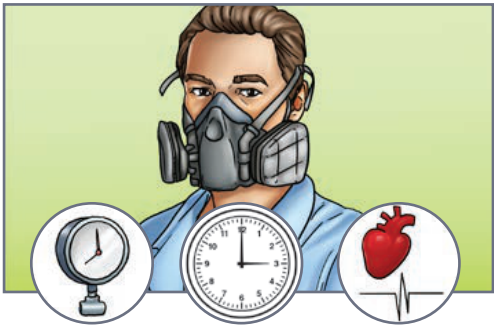
(climbing ramps or ladders):
use powered respirators or BA





5. Suitability for the user

Before a worker can start a job that requires RPE, their medical suitability must be confirmed by the site's occupational health physician. If a worker has any health issues, temporary or permanent prescriptions or limitations may be given. Some types of RPE make it more comfortable to use by supplying purified air, but they can also make it harder for workers to move or communicate, or cause claustrophobia. Prescriptions may also be given for religious articles.



6. Time/comfort

When choosing RPE, it's crucial to think about how comfortable or uncomfortable it will be to wear during the expected duration of use and the tasks that will be done while wearing it. Tight-fitting masks become uncomfortable to wear which might make users take off their RPE while in hazardous environments, so it's best to only wear RPE for an hour and then to take a break.



7. Communication

The wearer should be able to communicate effectively, according to the task at hand, while wearing the RPE.



8. Service life requirements/capacity

When the RPE is no longer effective" to "when the cartridges are no longer effective/must be replaced.

Instructions for using RPE should include the "obsolescence deadline" which is the date when the cartridges are no longer effective/must be replaced.

6. Assuring appropriate fit and fit testing



RPE works best when the air inside the mask comes entirely from a clean air source (SAR and SCBA) or has passed entirely through a filter that removes specific contaminants (APR and PAPR). It's essential to prevent contaminated air from leaking into the mask because of a poor seal against the user's face or from damage/cracks to the mask.



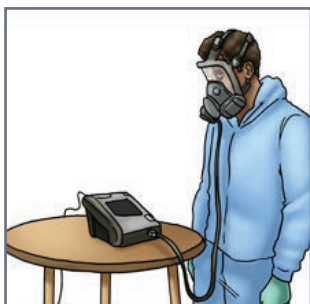
To ensure a proper fit, proficiency testing should be done using specific procedures for Qualitative Fit Test (QLFT) and Quantitative Fit Test (QNFT), depending on the type of RPE. The worker should wear the RPE correctly by tightening the straps and ensuring there are no obstacles (e.g. facial hair) that could compromise its safety/seal. Workers should check the fit and position of the RPE using a mirror or have another worker check them.

In addition, each time RPE is worn, it is good practice and sometimes a requirement to perform negative and positive pressure checks before using RPE. The worker should wear the RPE for at least 5 minutes to prepare for the activity, and try breathing, moving their head, and speaking out loud without hyperventilating. The RPE manufacturer may provide additional guidance on how to perform the test.



Qualitative Fit Test (QLFT)

A Qualitative Fit Test (QLFT) is a Pass/Fail test that uses the user's senses to determine if RPE fits and works effectively. The test generally involves placing a hood over the head, filling it with a mist of a test substance (e.g. isoamyl acetate (strong odour), saccharin solution aerosol (sweet), bitrex™ denatonium benzoate solution aerosol (bitter), stannic chloride (irritant smoke)), and observing the user's response.



Quantitative Fit Test (QNFT)

A Quantitative Fit Test (QNFT) is an assessment of how well RPE fits by measuring the amount of leakage into the respirator.

There are three types of QNFT, which use different technology to measure leakages:

- Generated Aerosol,
- Ambient Aerosol Condensation Nuclei Count, and
- Controlled Negative Pressure

For qualitative and quantitative fit tests to be effective:



The employer is responsible for ensuring that the equipment is available, clean, well-maintained, and efficient

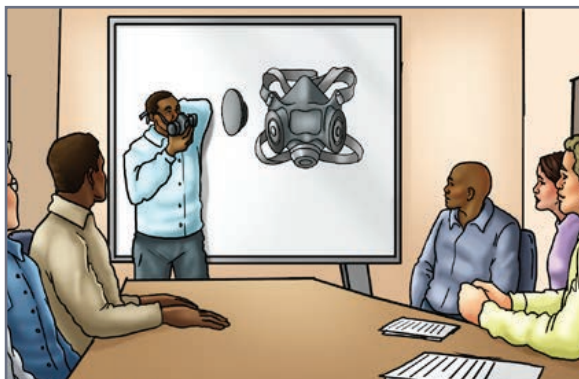


Trained personnel are available who can prepare test solutions, calibrate equipment, perform tests correctly, recognise invalid tests, calculate fit factors, ensure equipment functions properly, and be able to place a hood over the tester's head as a nebulizer and fill it with a mist of the test substance (e.g. isoamyl acetate, saccharin solution aerosol, etc. - qualitative fit test)



Tests should be repeated once or twice a year, or as prescribed in local regulations

7. Use of RPE - good practices before, during and after use



Users must have all the necessary training on RPE and understand the specific requirements of the particular RPE they will use. Regular refresher training is also required. Each worker should be given their own RPE to use and care for.

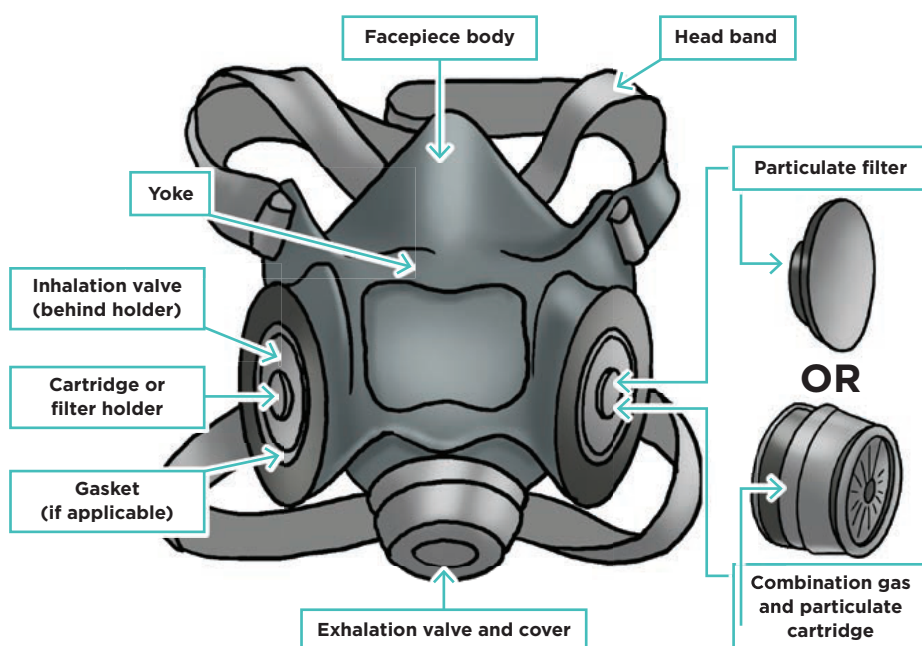
Before each use:



a. Handwashing

Wash your hands before handling and putting RPE on. This will help eliminate sources of contamination (for example from other PPE usage). Appropriate washing facilities and information about the correct use of handwashing products (e.g. posters or pictures) must be provided.

b. Pre-use inspection



With clean hands, follow the manufacturer's instructions and carefully inspect the RPE for signs of damage, wear or distortion.

This includes checking:

- Facepiece
- Inhalation valves
- Head and neck straps
- Plastic parts
- Gaskets
- Exhalation valves
- Speaking diaphragm
- Lens/visor



If the RPE fails the inspection, do not use it. Report the failure to your supervisor.

c. Donning

When putting on RPE, ensure that you tighten any head straps and follow the procedure provided by the manufacturer.



d. User seal check ('field fit check')

Once you have the RPE on, and before entering a potentially contaminated atmosphere, you must perform a user seal check, according to the manufacturer's instructions or local regulations. This can be a positive and/or negative user seal check depending on the model of respirator you have on. If the RPE fails the user seal check (i.e. it is leaking) do not use it. Report the failure to your supervisor.

To perform a negative pressure seal check

- cover the inhalation valve and breath in to detect air passing underneath the seal of the respirator.



To perform a positive pressure seal check

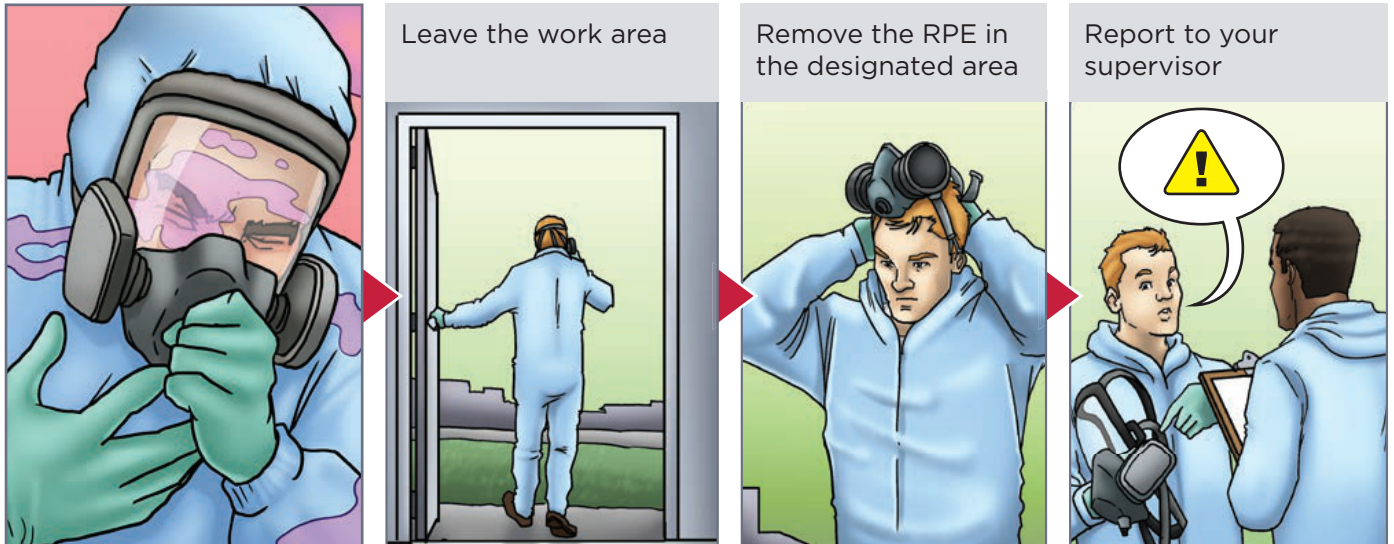
- cover the exhalation valves and exhale slightly to ensure that the air stays inside of the mask and does not leak out from underneath the seal.



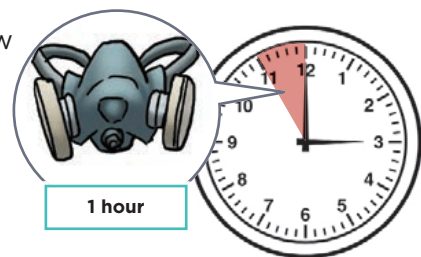
During use:

If you suspect the RPE is leaking (e.g. through smell, irritation of airways, or other senses), or it becomes difficult to breathe (e.g. blocked filter) during use, repeat the field fit check.

If the field fit check fails:



Follow the manufacturer's guidance and local regulations for how long RPE may be worn during a 24-hour period and how often breaks are required. Supervisors must help to ensure necessary breaks from using RPE during shifts - taking into account the tasks being performed, physical exertion and individual worker needs (physical resilience).



After use:

a. Washing facilities

Washing facilities should be close to areas containing sensitising Platinum Group Metal (PGM) substances (e.g. chloroplatinates) to help workers remove gross contamination before leaving - for example, gloves first because they usually contain high levels of contamination.



b. Removal of eye/face protection and RPE

Once gloves are washed, remove any eye and face protection, if worn separately from RPE, and wash them with water. Next, remove the RPE by loosening and/or detaching the RPE head and neck straps, but take care not to touch the filters or cartridges (highly contaminated).

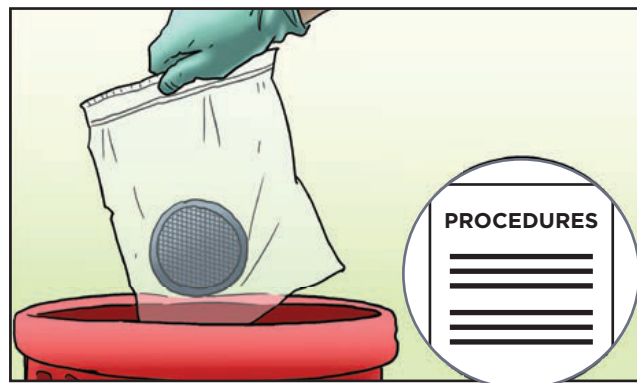


c. Handling RPE filters and cartridges

Reusable filters or cartridges that are removed (for example, so that the RPE can be cleaned) should be kept in a sealed bag.



Used filters and cartridges that will not be used again must be carefully removed and discarded according to local procedures to avoid the spread of contamination. Ensure you do not touch the filter or cartridge with bare skin.

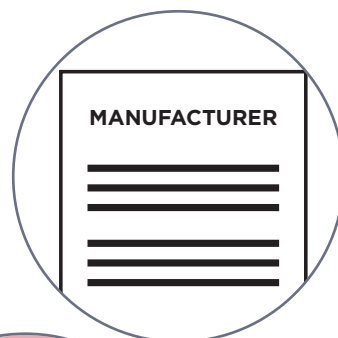


d. Cleaning of the respirator

Respirator cleaning stations should be available where RPE is removed.

When cleaning RPE:

- Consider the potential sensitising substances that may be on the RPE
- Follow any local regulations and manufacturer's instructions, including whether water or another liquid should be used
- Use cleaning wipes recommended by the manufacturer
- Never use solvents to clean the mask body as they may degrade some respirator components and reduce respirator effectiveness.
- Never use lanolin or other oils
- Do NOT clean filter connections as it could change their assigned protection factor



d. Handling RPE filters and cartridges (continued)

When cleaning PAPR or SCBA (note: special training is required in some countries):

- Use cleaning wipes provided by the manufacturer, or
- Place them in warm cleaning solution
- Ensure the water temperature is not hotter than 120° F (49° C)
- You can use a soft brush to scrub the RPE clean
- Add a neutral detergent, if necessary
- Disinfect facepieces by soaking in a disinfectant solution specified by the manufacturer
- After washing:
 - rinse the respirators in fresh, warm water
 - air dry in a non-contaminated atmosphere



e. Removal of disposable gloves after the task

Wash disposable gloves with water at washing facilities and then, one at a time, grab the end of the glove by the wrist/forearm and pull your hand out so that the glove will be inside out. Dispose of the gloves according to local requirements and environmental requirements (e.g. method of disposal, labelling, packaging) to avoid any potential contamination (PPE, maintenance and operational tools, workplaces).



f. Final handwashing

Wash your hands and use available skin products to help protect the health of your skin as a precaution against the potential risk of coming into contact with PGM substances (e.g. chloroplatinates).



g. Post-use inspection

Visually inspect RPE for excessive wear, distortion, or other damage before storage. Report any damage to your supervisor so that defective RPE can be immediately replaced. Dispose of discarded PPE/RPE, and replaced filters and cartridges according to local or company procedures for the recovery of PGM contamination.



h. Storage

Store new or clean RPE in its original packaging or other suitable, sealed bag or box and place inside a designated RPE storage area that's away from potential sources of contamination (e.g. tools and additional PPE). Seal contaminated filters or cartridges that have been removed from RPE before storage. Companies should provide signs or posters at the storage area to reinforce use, cleaning, inspection, maintenance, and storage procedures.

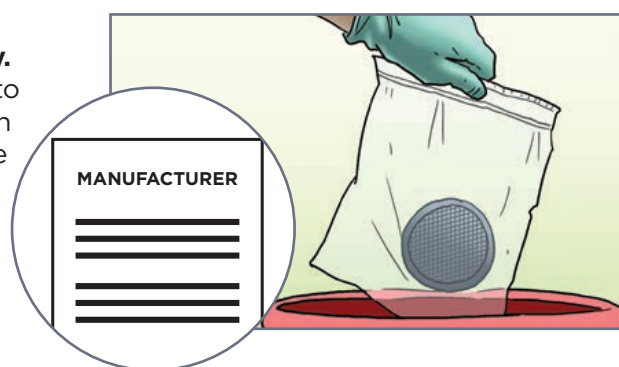
8. Use of RPE for emergency use situations

In case of unexpected release of toxic substances or equipment damage, Supplied Air Respirators (SAR) or Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) must be available for use by emergency response workers. These must be stored nearby and kept ready for use. After an incident, emergency simulation or maintenance, the RPE should be cleaned before storing.



9. RPE maintenance and disposal

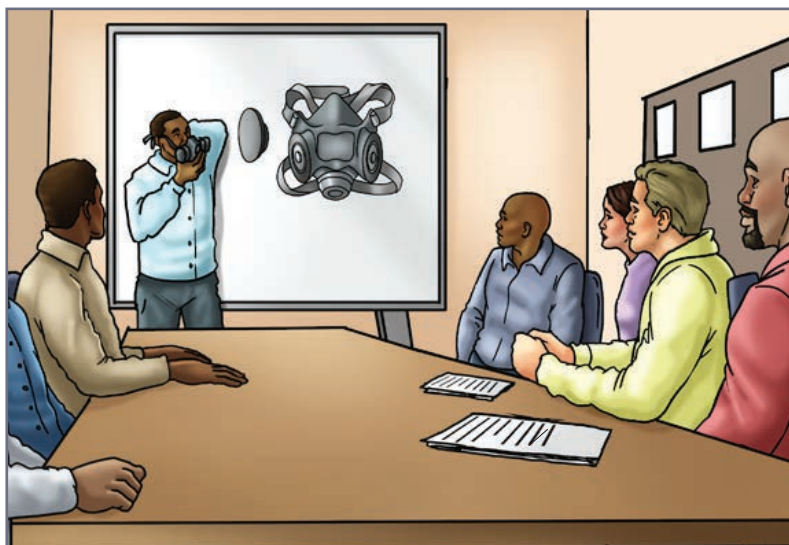
Reusable RPE should be maintained according to manufacturers' instructions or internal company policy. When using filters in RPE, it's important to know when to discard them. This could be at the end of a shift or when the manufacturer says it's time to replace them. Dispose of contaminated filters according to local regulations.



10. Training

Local EHS must create and enforce a written program for respiratory protection. They should regularly assess the program's effectiveness. Employees who may be exposed to chloroplatinates must receive adequate training from EHS or experts. This training should cover how to use, clean, store, and dispose of RPE. Employees should understand why RPE is necessary, how it was selected, its limitations, the importance of fit testing, and when to replace it. Employees must wear the respirator at all times when exposed.

Workers should be retrained if there are changes to the workplace, RPE, or deviations from company procedure due to technical or human factors.



11. Program review and audit

To ensure good practices are maintained, the RPE program should be audited once a year. This should include observing employees to make sure they wear the prescribed respirators, follow proper procedures, and maintain, clean, and store the respirators correctly. Surface wipe testing inside respirators can identify problem areas in use, cleaning, and storage procedures. Feedback from respirator users about fit and comfort should also be collected. Other elements, such as fit testing and training logs, should also be checked.



12. Record-keeping

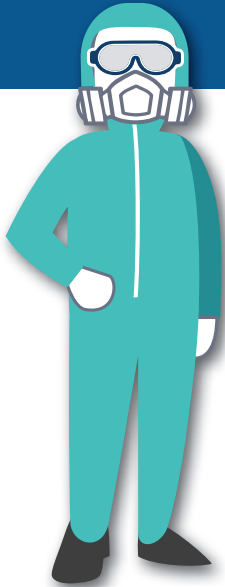


Written records must be kept of medical evaluations, fit testing, and the respirator program for PGMs exposure. Employers must audit the program, ensure legal compliance and include/consult employees in the RPE selection process, for example during fit testing. More complex RPE, like PAPRs, may require more detailed record-keeping and maintenance according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Audit Questions (Optional)

This section provides example lists of 'Go/No Go' questions that could be implemented as part of job risk assessments and operational documents to help manage RPE as a critical control for controlling exposure to chemicals that cause platinum sensitisation. Example lists of 'Go/No Go' questions are provided for Operators, Superintendents, and Managers responsible for installing new equipment and processes. Please refer to the list of questions for the role that most aligns with your role and responsibilities. The question lists are intended to verify that appropriate systems, processes and checks are in place to ensure RPE as a critical control is effective. This includes empowering workers to stop work or not begin a task if a problem is identified.

These question lists are provided as examples. Implementation of such a scheme and the specific questions that would be most appropriate may differ between different companies and sites. Questions should be appropriate and understandable to their target audience and ideally be binary ('Go/No Go'). In implementing such a scheme, consideration should be given to when and how often it is appropriate to ask and answer individual questions. For some questions, such as those relating to checks performed by Operators, it may be appropriate to ask and answer the question each time before commencing a task that uses the critical control to help control exposure to chemicals that cause platinum sensitisation. For other questions, it may be more appropriate to schedule them for daily or weekly checks, while others, such as most of the questions intended for Managers, would be more suitable for attention perhaps quarterly or annually.



Operators

How to use this guide:

- Review each critical control's effectiveness, at their specified frequency, using the questions below.
- If you answer NO to any of the questions, immediate action must be taken to inform your line management to find a suitable temporary fix or permanent solution.

Managing Respiratory Protective Equipment as a Critical Control

1. Availability

Is the correct RPE available for me to use that fits me properly and is comfortable enough for me to wear to do my job and communicate as needed with my colleagues?

☐ YES☐ NO

Are clean and tidy RPE washing stations available for me to use before and after RPE use?

☐ YES☐ NO

2. Fit testing

Has EHS/H&S fit tested me with my RPE to ensure it works properly?

☐ YES☐ NO

Was my last fit test less than a year ago?

☐ YES☐ NO

3. Inspections

Do I inspect my RPE before and after each use to ensure it remains in good condition?

☐ YES☐ NO

4. Training

Am I aware of the specific RPE requirements for all the tasks I am involved in?

☐ YES☐ NO

Am I trained and competent on how to inspect, use, care for, maintain, test and store RPE, according to manufacturer's instructions?

☐ YES☐ NO

Do I report any issues with my RPE (e.g. poor fit, leaking, damage) to my supervisor?

☐ YES☐ NO

5. Audits

Do I participate in yearly audits carried out on our RPE program to ensure it's working properly and make any suggestions if anything needs changing or upgrading?

☐ YES☐ NO



Superintendents

How to use this guide:

- Review each critical control's effectiveness, at their specified frequency, using the questions below.
- If you answer NO to any of the questions, immediate action must be taken to inform your line management to find a suitable temporary fix or permanent solution.
- Communicate this Good Practice Guidance and Audit Questions to Operators and other relevant staff and contractors.

Managing Respiratory Protective Equipment as a Critical Control

1. Availability

Is the correct RPE available for workers to wear that provides adequate protection and meets their individual needs?

☐ YES☐ NO

Are washing stations available for workers before and after use kept clean and tidy?

☐ YES☐ NO

2. Fit testing

Have all workers using RPE completed a successful fit test, and completed a successful retest at least every year?

☐ YES☐ NO

3. Inspections

Do workers know to inspect their RPE before and after use to ensure they remain in good condition?

☐ YES☐ NO

4. Training

Have all workers been trained on the specific RPE requirements for specific tasks?

☐ YES

☐ NO

Have all workers needing RPE been trained on how to inspect, use, care for, maintain, test and store RPE, according to manufacturer's instructions?

☐ YES

☐ NO

Do workers know to report damaged RPE to me to get it replaced?

☐ YES

☐ NO

5. Audits

Do I regularly monitor RPE conditions and to ensure they're in good working order?

☐ YES

☐ NO

Are yearly audits carried out on our RPE program to ensure it's working properly, the results reported to management, and any actions or changes required been completed?

☐ YES

☐ NO



Manager

How to use this guide:

- Review each critical control's effectiveness, at their specified frequency, using the questions below.
- If you answer NO to any of the questions, immediate action must be taken to find a suitable temporary fix or permanent solution.
- Communicate this Good Practice Guidance and Audit Questions to Superintendents, Operators, Maintenance/Engineering, and Industrial/Occupational Hygienists and/or EHS team members.

Managing Respiratory Protective Equipment as a Critical Control

1. General

Have all areas of the site been risk assessed for chloroplatinate exposure and evaluated for RPE requirements?

☐ YES☐ NO

Are all areas of the site requiring RPE to be worn appropriately signposted?

☐ YES☐ NO

2. Availability

Is the correct RPE available for workers to wear?

☐ YES☐ NO

Are suitable washing stations appropriately located in each part of the site for workers to use before and after RPE use?

☐ YES☐ NO

3. Fit testing

Is an RPE fit testing programme in place that is regularly audited by EHS?

☐ YES☐ NO

4. Training

Is a training program in place to ensure workers know to inspect, use, care for, maintain, test and store RPE, according to manufacturer's instructions?

☐ YES☐ NO

Do workers know to report damaged RPE and to get them replaced?

☐ YES☐ NO

5. Audits

Is a program in place that monitors RPE conditions and when to dispose and replace them?

☐ YES

☐ NO

Are yearly audits carried out on our RPE program to ensure it's working properly and if anything needs changing or upgrading?

☐ YES

☐ NO

Have I seen the results of the most recent audit of our RPE program and instructed any corrective action required?

☐ YES

☐ NO

Additional Resources

- ISO/DIS 16975-1 Draft EN Respiratory protective devices - Selection, use and maintenance – Part 1: Establishing and implementing a respiratory protective device program
- ISO/DIS 16975-3 Respiratory protective devices – Selection, use and maintenance – Part 3: Fit testing procedures
- EN 529 Respiratory protective devices – Recommendations for selection, use, care and maintenance – Guidance document
- Regulation (EU) 2016/425 REGULATION (EU) 2016/425 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 9 March 2016 on personal protective equipment and repealing Directive 89/686/EEC
- GB/T-18664 Selection, Use and Maintenance of Respiratory Protective Equipment
- OSHA 29 CFR1910.134 “Respiratory training”, Appendix B-2 - Respirator Cleaning Procedures
- 3M Technical Data Bulletin #150, September 2001 - Reusable Respirators 4058 Issue Date 11/01/01
- 3M Respirators: Guidelines for Cleaning and Disinfecting 3M Canada July 2005

Notes

