

SELECTING THE CORRECT PROTECTION

General Information & Guidance

RESPIRATORY SELECTION

FOUR SIMPLE STEPS

Identify the Hazards
dust, metal fume, gas, vapour



Assess the Hazards
What is the exposure limit? What level of protection is needed? Is any other PPE required?



Selecting the Correct Respirator
disposable, half mask, full face mask, powered or air fed.



Training in Fitting and Use
Once the respirator has been correctly selected for the hazards, the application and individual wearer, it is essential to train the wearer in the correct fitting, use, maintenance and care of the respirator.

RESPIRATORY HAZARD

DESCRIPTIONS

DUSTS:	Produced when solid materials are broken down into finer particles. The smaller the dust, the greater the hazard.
MISTS:	Tiny liquid droplets that are formed from liquid materials by atomisation and condensation processes such as spraying.
METAL FUMES:	Created when metals are vaporised under high heat. The vapour is cooled quickly and condenses into extremely fine particles.
GASES:	Airborne at room temperature. Able to diffuse or spread freely and quickly. Often odourless and invisible.
VAPOURS:	Gaseous state of substances that are liquids or solids at room temperature. Formed when substances evaporate in the way water vapour evaporates from water.

FIT TESTING

The Approved Code of Practices supporting COSHH, CAR and CLAW stipulate that tight-fitting RPE MUST be fit tested as part of the selection process.







The performance of tight-fitting face pieces depends on achieving a good contact between the wearers skin and the face seal of the face piece. Inadequate fit will significantly reduce the protection provided. Any reduction in protection can put the wearers life in danger or may lead to immediate or long-term ill health.




For more information please contact Moldex on our Free Advice Line:
0800 252 263



GOOD TO KNOW

Protection levels gas and particulate filters / FFP masks

	Color	Hazard type	Examples	Maximum use level
GAS FILTERS				
A1		Organic gases and vapours, boiling point > 65°C	Working with solvents created by varnish, paints and adhesives	10 x WEL [half mask] 20 x WEL [full face masks] or 1000 ppm whichever is lower
A2		As A1	As A1 but to higher concentrations	10 x WEL [half mask] 20 x WEL [full face masks] or 5000 ppm whichever is lower
A1B1E1		As A1 + inorganic gases and vapours + acid gases	As A1 + working with chlorine, bromine, hydrogen cyanide, hydrogen sulphide, hydrochloric acid and other acid gases	10 x WEL [half mask] 20 x WEL [full face masks] or 1000 ppm whichever is lower
A1B1E1K1		As A1B1E1 + ammonia	As A1B1E1 + working with ammonia	10 x WEL [half mask] 20 x WEL [full face masks] or 1000 ppm whichever is lower
A2B2E1		As A1B1E1	As A1B1E1 but to higher concentrations	10 x WEL [half mask] 20 x WEL [full face masks] or 5000 ppm [A+B], 1000 ppm [E] whichever is lower
AX		Organic vapours, boiling point < 65°C	Working with low-boiling vapours e.g. acetone, dichloromethane	For single use only. National legislation may limit maximum usage levels. Please contact Moldex for details

	Color	Hazard type	Examples	Maximum use level
PARTICULATE FILTERS / FFP MASKS				
P1 / FFP1		Non toxic dusts, mists and fumes based on water and oil ¹	Working with non toxic dusts, mists and fumes	4 x WEL [FFP masks and half mask] 4 x WEL [full face masks]
P2 / FFP2		Harmful and carcinogenic dusts, fumes and aerosols based on water and oil ²	Working with soft wood, glass fibres, metal and plastics [besides PVC] and oil mists	10 x WEL [FFP masks and half mask] 10 x WEL [full face masks]
P3 / FFP3		Harmful and carcinogenic dusts, fumes and aerosols based on water and oil ³	Working with highly toxic metals, hard wood, radioactive and biochemical active substances as well as oil mists and welding of stainless steel	20 x WEL [FFP masks and half mask] 40 x WEL [full face masks]

R > reusable - the filter can be used for more than one shift

D > filters have passed the optional dolomite test, better breathing resistance for longer

¹ > not against carcinogenic and radioactive materials, not against airborne biological substances and enzymes

² > not against radioactive particulates, not against viruses and enzymes

³ > against radioactive particulates as well as airborne biological substances and enzymes