Respiratory Protective Equipment



<u>Overview</u>

This document covers aspects that require consideration when protecting against respiratory risks.

Some Facts

- 1) Every year up to 7,000 people develop occupational asthma from breathing in dust and fumes.
- 2) 4,000 people die every year from asbestos-related diseases from breathing in airborne asbestos fibres.
- 3) About 2.6 million working days a year are lost to work-related ill health.
- 4) At any one time there are far more people off work through occupational ill health than there are because of work-related accidents.

Provision and use

- 1) Where dust and fumes cannot be avoided by engineering or mechanical means (such as extraction, collection or dampening down) then the correct respiratory protective equipment (RPE) must be provided and used.
- 2) RPE must be designed to reduce the level of exposure to the type and quantity of dust or fumes.
- 3) Different types of RPE are available, ranging from disposable, filtering half-masks and half mask respirators with cartridges, to ventilated visors or helmet respirators.
- 4) Selection of RPE is important and must take into account people who wear glasses, have stubble or a beard, or have long hair when it is not swept back and secured.
- 5) Personal face lit is a critical element in the selection and use of RPE.

Your duties

- 1) Use RPE properly, whenever it is required.
- 2) Report any defects in, or damage to, the RPE immediately.
- 3) Participate in any training or instruction provided on RPE.
- 4) Inform your employer of any medical conditions that you have, which might be affected by the use of RPE.

Health and Safety

Always make sure you wear RPE if it is available wear it.

<u>Summary</u>

RPE is provided to protect workers so they don't just damage their clothes but their health.

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TOOL BOX TALK RECORD

Project Name:					Phase	2:
Site Address:						
Job No:			Date of talk:			
Name of person giving Tool Box Talk:						
Person giving Tool Box Talk employed by:						
Start Time						
End Time						
Name (Capitals)		Signature		Trade		Employer
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Safety

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