

Fit Test Method Comparison Sheet

There are two main types of Fit Test method that can be used in the UK - Quantitative and Qualitative. Most commonly the Quantitative method is carried out using a TSI Portacount machine and the Qualitative method uses a Bitrex Test kit.

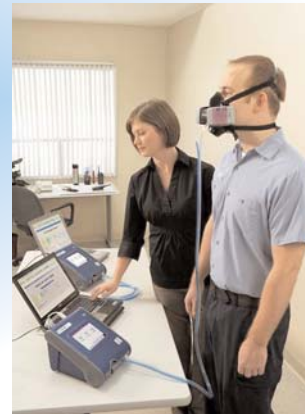
Quantitative Fit Testing - (with a Portacount Fit Test machine)

Advantages

- * Results sent straight to a computer to be printed and/or stored
- * Testing done using simple software
- * Scientific method giving more accurate results
- * Software can be used to identify problems with failed masks
- * The recommended method of industry bodies (e.g. BSIF)
- * Very easy to use
- * Reduced test time - approx. 15 minutes per test
- * Can be used on all mask types

Disadvantages

- * Equipment expensive to buy initially
- * Requires an electrical supply
- * Machine must be calibrated annually



Qualitative Fit Testing - (with a Bitrex Kit)

Advantages

- * Fit Test kit is cheap to buy
- * Requires no electrical supply
- * No annual calibration



Disadvantages

- * No software for recording test results
- * Tests may take 20-30 minutes or longer
- * Relies on wearer being able to taste the Bitrex test solution
- * Relies on wearers input to determine pass or fail
- * Easy to do incorrectly - making tests invalid
- * No means of identifying problems with failed masks
- * Cannot be used on full face masks