

A Method for Respirator Wearers to Understand the Performance When Wearing the Respirators

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It has been pointed out that the issue of fitness could be inherent when donning negative pressure filtering respirators. As a measure of improving the state of affairs, some fit testers have been developed and applied. They have functioned for improving the fitness to a certain degree and as instructive tools in Japan. The potential issue of negative pressure filtering respirators, however, could not be settled at present time because there are many unaware factors about the state of respirators donned (or might not be donned). When substances in working environment will affect to the worker's health, the most sure and feasible way is to wear positive pressure PAPR or loose fitting type PAPR with sufficient air flow instead of negative pressure filtering respirators. On the other hand, respirator users usually do not have enough knowledge about the superiority of such PAPR. It is considered that a real experience of wearing new type of respirators is effective to renew the respirator users' awareness. In order to understand the performance when wearing respirators, inward leakage and pressure in a facepiece should be informed and also desirably be quick and easily viewable output. We will present a review of the status of PAPR in Japan and test results of a device for demonstrating the superiority of PAPR.