

## **A Web-based Respiratory Protective Equipment Selector Tool**

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An open-access web-based respiratory protective equipment (RPE) selector tool has been developed in collaboration between UK Health and Safety Executive, the Scottish Centre for Healthy Working Lives and the Scottish National Health Service. The foundation for this tool is based on the principles and users' experience of the HSE's COSHH-Essentials control banding tool developed for the exposure risk management of hazardous chemicals in the workplace by small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). It can be applied for substances and products with safety data sheets as well as for a large number of commonly encountered process-generated substances (e.g. poultry house dusts or welding fume). There is the potential for international usability by the use of Hazard Statements developed by the Globally Harmonised System (GHS). The tool follows the principle factors involved in RPE selection – task, working environment, contaminants(s) and wearer.

The tool uses an interactive stepwise flow for providing input/answers at each step. At each step, users are directed to tick relevant choice(s) before moving to the next step. The output of the selection process is a report summarising the user input data and a choice of adequate and suitable RPE, including types of filters where applicable, from which user can select the appropriate one for each wearer. In addition, each report includes 'Dos' and 'Don'ts' for the recommended RPE. Various safe guards are built into the process which directs users to seek expert advice where necessary.

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