

## **POF008: General platform presentation**

### **Simulated workplace protection factors for workers in the asbestos removal industry**

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**Abstract:**

The assigned protection factors (APF) for respiratory protective devices (RPD), in this case used in the asbestos removal industry, are always food for discussion last decennia's. Although they are backed up by studies in the past, recently more voices are telling us that they are too low, too generic, or sometimes biased by the technologies present at the time. TNO together with ProQares, for an assignment for the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, supported by Ascert (trade organization for asbestos removers) has set up an experimental test protocol for measuring the protection factor of RPD for asbestos removal personnel during activities representing actual work.

ProQares has developed a system in the past, which makes it possible to measure online the level of protection of RPD during a so-called Simulated Workplace Protection Factor measurement (SWPF). The goal was to gather basic information of the performance of RPD, most frequently used in the asbestos removal industry. To identify whether the APF is correlating to the measured SWPF numbers and if the generic approach can be obtained for different types of RPD, such as powered air purifying respirators versus supplied airline respirators.