

Construction Respirator Use

NPPTL No-Fit-Test Respirator Workshop
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Required Respirator Use (Construction - 2001)

64,200 Establishments (9.6%)

77.8% Used Disposable Dust Masks

67.3% Fit test users of tight fitting respirators

591,000 Employees (8.9%)

Excludes 2.4 Million Self-Employed



Construction Respirator Challenges

- Appropriate Selection
- Comfort (heat, cold, humidity, dust)
- Visibility & Safety in Hazardous Site
- Communication (hand signals & audio)
- Durability, straps, repairs, storage
- Frequent Task Changes
- Productivity



Construction Challenges (2)

- No Transferability of Fit-Testing
- Heavy Work Loads & seal movement
- Interference between PPT components
- Wash Water Access
- Rapidly Changing Exposures
- Excessive PPE Reuse



Research Challenges

- Field Testing to Validate Lab Methods
- PPE ensemble testing/certification (gloves, harnesses, hearing protection, etc.)
- Minimum Durability Requirements
- Standardizing “Comfort” Measures
- Validation of “No Fit test” Claims



Thank you!



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