



Protecting Workforces Worldwide



OUR SERVICES  
**FACE FIT  
TESTING & TRAINING**



## What is Face Fit testing?

Face Fit Testing is a straightforward process for checking respiratory protective equipment (RPE) to ensure a person's mask properly fits their face shape and size.

RPE should protect your staff from airborne hazards at work, like particulates, dust, and gas, but only does so when worn correctly. Unfortunately, research has shown that around 50% of RPE does not provide the wearer with the necessary level of protection simply because it does not fit correctly!

Face masks play a vital role in keeping your staff safe. A Face Fit Test ensures the RPE selected is appropriate for the worker. With a wide range of different types, designs and fits, masks have multiple uses, and it's unlikely that one size or type of mask will fit all faces properly.

### The Stronghold Difference

We have a dedicated team trained and qualified to carry out the practical assessments required for Face Fit Testing.

Our assessors have BSIF Fit2Fit accreditation, following HSE INDG 479 linked to COSHH, CLAW & CAW.

We can visit your premises to run the testing, which we recommend you conduct during the initial mask selection process to ensure you purchase the correct models and sizes for your staff. However, testing isn't a one-off event, as it's essential to repeat Face Fit Testing every two years, especially if there are any significant changes to the wearer (losing or gaining weight, dental work, or other facial changes). Therefore, we can create a timescale for regular repeat Face Fit Testing, depending on the risks involved with the tasks performed.

### Is Face Fit Testing Required?

Face Fit Testing is a valuable service to ensure your staff are wearing the proper mask correctly. However, if a worker is required to wear a mask that relies on creating a facial seal, then you are mandated, by law, to carry out Face Fit Testing to make sure the seal is adequate and provides maximum protection.

There are two types of tests, qualitative and quantitative.

### **Qualitative (QLFT)**

Qualitative testing is used for disposable and reusable half-face masks and is a pass/fail test based on assessing leakage through the face seal.

A specialist will conduct the test to demonstrate how to position the mask correctly. First, the individual will wear a hood without a mask. The tester will spray a strong-tasting solution into the hood and ask the person to indicate when they identify it. This will determine the user's sensitivity to the taste and how much solution will be needed to perform the test. Next, the user will wear their test mask with the hood whilst performing various movements and light exercises to simulate normal working conditions. Finally, the tester will respray the solution. If the user can taste the solution, the seal is not effective.

### **Quantitative (QNFT)**

Quantitative testing is a method used to calculate the level of particles inside and outside a respirator to determine how clean the inside of the mask is with minimum target levels required; a necessary test for all tight-fitting masks and respirators, including full-face and half-face masks. Attaching a particle-counting machine will detect whether airborne particles pass into the mask, indicating if the seal is working correctly.

Testing is conducted based on a half day's testing rate (3-10 tests) or a full day's testing rate (10-16 tests). A certificate of the face fit test results is provided for each test.

#### **Qualitative Face Fit Testing Training**

At Stronghold Global, we can provide dedicated testing or provide a "Train the Tester" training course for up to 6 attendees. This enables the attendees to undertake their own management of Face Fit Testing in the workplace.

#### **What do our training courses include?**

- Course lasts approximately 4 hours
- Includes a practical demonstration of the Face Fit Testing process
- Course notes included and a short multiple choice test
- "Certificates of Attendance" issued upon successful completion and valid for 2 years
- Certification allows you to conduct your own internal Face Fit Testing on employees for FFP disposables and cartridge half masks

Please contact us for more details if required and formal quotation.



## Pricing - Face Fit Testing

Our face fit testing services include the following benefits:

- Travel expenses, test respirators, and certificate upload to the portal are all covered in the pricing.
- Each test/appointment is conducted for approximately 20 minutes per person, with an additional 30 minutes required for arrival and set-up and another 30 minutes for pack-up and departure.
- It is essential for the customer to be clean-shaven and refrain from eating, drinking, or smoking 30 minutes before the test.
- The customer needs to provide the masks for testing, and we highly recommend having a second choice respirator available if needed.
- Our fit2fit accredited professional testers, adhering to HSG INDG 479 / HSG53 guidelines, conduct all face fit tests, ensuring the highest standard of service.
- A formal certificate of face fit test is provided, and will be valid for up to two years.
- Additionally, we have a network of 14 experienced and qualified tester/trainers available across all UK locations, and we will always utilise the closest geographically suitable trainer.

It's important to note that if reusable masks are used in addition to disposable ones, face fit testing will be required for these as well. Also, in line with HSG53 guidelines, recording the mask's condition and each filter change is necessary.

For users who are unable to adhere to being clean-shaven, we recommend Powered Air Purifying Respirators (PAPRs) as the best alternative.

### **Quantitative or Qualitative Face Fit Testing Full Day Rate**

(P.O.A) per day (up to 16 tests)

### **Quantitative or Qualitative Face Fit Testing Half Day Rate**

(P.O.A) per half day (up to 8 tests)





## Pricing - Qualitative Face Fit Testing “Train The Tester”

The “Train The Tester” program equips attendees with the expertise to conduct qualitative face fit testing on tight-fitting disposable or reusable half masks at a competent level. Upon successful completion of the training, formal certificates will be provided, verifying the attendees’ capability to perform face fit testing effectively.

By investing in this training opportunity, you can build an internal team of certified testers, allowing for more flexibility and convenience in conducting regular face fit testing on-site. This not only enhances workplace safety but also promotes a culture of accountability and responsibility within your organisation.

Our experienced trainers will ensure that the “Train The Tester” session is informative, interactive, and tailored to meet your specific needs. Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of qualitative face fit testing methodologies and best practices, in line with industry standards.

We are delighted to offer our Face Fit Testing services through our convenient and user-friendly portal. Simply place your order, and upon receipt, our dedicated team will promptly get in touch to arrange a suitable time for the testing session.

We understand the importance of ensuring that all your questions are addressed, so our experts will be available to discuss any specific requirements you may have.

### “Train The Tester” program for Qualitative Face Fit Testing

Max 6 attendees – duration 3.5-4 hours (P.O.A)





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