

# Respirator fit testing

Respiratory protection is only useful if the protective device, such as a face mask, fits properly. It is essential that this is the case not only upon first use, but also after prolonged periods of use, maintenance and cleaning - for each and every individual user. Services in this field offered by Proqares include evaluation, training and maintenance programmes based on European standard EN 529

## Legislation is becoming stricter

There is a general and worldwide trend towards increasingly high and demanding standards of safety in the working place. It is acknowledged by standardisation organisations that real-life performance of personal protective equipment is only partially predicted by product specifications; other factors may be equally important to the protection factor achieved in real life. Such factors include degradation of the device throughout the lifecycle, but also reduced effectiveness due to improper use or maintenance. New standards (such as EN 529) will be the basis for stricter legislation, which will require through-lifecycle fit testing.

## Implementing monitoring programmes in practice

In practice, monitoring programmes are not always easy to implement. First of all, there are logistic issues associated with tracking and monitoring fit for each individual user. But perhaps more importantly, fit testing requires specialised equipment, experience and technical skills. In order for fit testing results to be sufficiently reliable, high standards of validation, calibration and education are required. The end result is that even large industrial concerns tend to find fit testing programmes cumbersome and expensive to set up and execute.

## Benefits of the Proqares fit testing programme

Our fit test is a standardised, quantitative test based on state-of-the-art equipment, operated by skilled and experienced technicians. Proqares has over 50 years of expertise in design, evaluation and certification of respiratory protection devices of all conceivable kinds. We have also seen every type of use - proper and improper.

Proqares offers a tailor-made programme, designed particularly for each customer. Sessions are planned at your site, dealing with shift rotation schedules, vacation planning and other logistic challenges - reaching every respirator user in your organisation.

**Proof of reliability.**

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### Training and instruction

Since proper use is key to real-life performance, so is training and instruction. Proqares offers training and instruction sessions, to be embedded in your in-house training programme as separate modules, or in connection with a fit testing programme.



### Why choose Proqares?

- Over 50 years of experience in design, evaluation and certification of respiratory protection
- Independent and impartial
- Fast and flexible
- Security screened employees.
- Well validated test methods.
- Access to scientific back-up and other testing facilities throughout the TNO organization

**proqares**  
a TNO company

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Many professionals worldwide trust their lives to protective equipment against chemical and biological hazards. Proqares is an internationally leading provider of testing, evaluation and certification services targeted at such personal protective equipment. Proqares has an extensive track record in testing CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear) protection devices for military personnel and first responders; commonly tested devices include respirators, CBRN protective clothing, boots and gloves. Also, Proqares provides a range of services targeted at personal protective equipment for the Chemical, Medical en Pharmaceutical industry. Within its High-Tox facility, Proqares is capable of working with the most toxic chemicals known to man, providing the fastest and most reliable results in the industry. Any test specified in all commonly cited standards is offered - national and international standards, military and civil. Integrity, flexibility, speed and reliability are core values of Proqares and its employees.

**Proof of reliability.**