

## **Appendix B-1 to 437-004-1041, Respiratory Protection – User Seal Check Procedures (Mandatory)**

The user of a tight-fitting respirator must do a seal check every time they put on the respirator. They must use one of the two methods below or the manufacturer's recommended method. (These tests do not substitute for qualitative or quantitative fit tests.)

- (I) Face piece Positive and/or Negative Pressure Checks
  - (A) Positive pressure check. Close off the exhalation valve and exhale gently into the face piece. The face fit is satisfactory if a slight positive pressure can be built up inside the face piece without any evidence of outward leakage of air at the seal. For most respirators this method of leak testing requires the wearer to first remove the exhalation valve cover before closing off the exhalation valve and then carefully replacing it after the test.
  - (B) Negative pressure check. Close off the inlet opening of the canister or cartridge(s) by covering with the palm of the hand(s) or by replacing the filter seal(s), inhale gently so that the face piece collapses slightly, and hold the breath for ten seconds. The design of the inlet opening of some cartridges cannot be effectively covered with the palm of the hand. The test can be performed by covering the inlet opening of the cartridge with a thin latex or nitrile glove. If the face piece remains in its slightly collapsed condition and there is no sign of inward leakage of air, the tightness of the respirator is satisfactory.
- (II) Manufacturer's Recommended User Seal Check Procedures. You may use the respirator manufacturer's recommended procedures for performing a user seal check instead of the positive and/or negative pressure check procedures if you can demonstrate that the manufacturer's procedures are equally effective.

Statutory Authority: ORS 654.025(2) and 656.726(4).

Statutes Implemented: ORS 654.001 through 654.295.

History: OR-OSHA Administrative Order 3-2006, filed 6/7/06, effective 3/1/07.

OR-OSHA Administrative Order 4-2012, filed 9/19/12, effective 1/1/13.