



Seal (Leak) Check Procedure


EHSS-Phos Program – Respiratory Protection, Appendix H

Each time a respirator is put on (donned) a seal check must be conducted to ensure the mask is properly placed on the face.

The employee must perform both seal (leak) checks before putting on the respirator.

Positive Pressure Seal (Leak) Check Procedure:

1. Place respirator on face, carefully tightening the straps or other harness attachments.
2. Close off the exhalation valve with palm of hand.
3. Exhale gently into the face piece.
4. If respirator is sealing properly, a slight positive pressure will build up in the face piece without leaking air outward (listen for leaking air).
5. Be certain the exhalation valve is fully closed or covered so that air cannot pass through the valve. If no air is leaking outward the tightness of the mask is adequate.

 **Note:** If required, remove the exhalation valve guard before conducting the seal check and replace it carefully and snugly before using the respirator.

Negative Pressure Seal (Leak) Check Procedure:

1. Place respirator on face, carefully tightening the straps or other harness attachments.
2. Cover the inhalation valves or inlet opening of the cartridges/canisters using the palm of the hands or other effective means to prevent air from being pulled into the face piece.
3. Inhale gently so that face piece collapses slightly.
4. Hold breath and count to ten.
5. Listen for air leaking into the mask. If the face piece remains collapsed and no inward leaking is detected, the tightness of the mask is adequate.