

FIT TESTING

Select the Right Qualitative Fit Test Method for your Worksite

For most applications, a qualitative fit test will be sufficient. Irritant Smoke fit testing creates an involuntary cough, making it hard to fake a successful test. Bitrex and saccharine create an aerosol. Either method is easy to perform, but not everyone can detect the solutions. Isoamyl acetate is the most complicated to perform, but many prefer this method as it is a rare occurrence when someone can't detect the solution. See chart below for a complete breakdown.



FIT TEST METHOD	PROS	CONS	NOTES
Irritant Smoke	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Unlikely to fake passing the testEasy to set up and perform	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Heavy smokers may not be sensitive to the smokeCan't be used for fit testing disposables except P100* particulate filtersMust be delivered at the correct flow to avoid over-exposure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Must be performed in well-ventilated areaMust use P100Combination vapor or gas with P100 may be used
Bitrex	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No concerns about over-exposure to substanceMethod used for all disposables, including N95	<ul style="list-style-type: none">People who consume a lot of sour food (lemons) may not be sensitiveProcedure little more complicated than Irritant Smoke	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Must be performed using a hood specifically designed for fit testingUse N, R or P filters
Saccharine	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Method used for all disposables, including N95	<ul style="list-style-type: none">People who consume a lot of saccharine or sugar may not be sensitiveProcedure little more complicated than Irritant Smoke	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Must be performed using a hoodUse N, R or P filters
Isoamyl Acetate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Most people can detect the solution	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Method outlined in standard is most complicated to perform correctlyCan't be used for fit testing disposablesRequires a fit test chamber	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Must use organic vapor cartridge