RESPIRATOR SEAL CHECK INSTRUCTIONS

1) Perform a seal check:
   a. **Before** you enter the respirator use area
   b. **Each time** you put your respirator on

   **Note:** There are 2 parts to the procedure. You must complete both parts each time. If you cannot pass both parts, your respirator is not functioning properly, see your supervisor for further instruction.

2) **Positive Pressure Check:**

   a. Remove exhalation valve cover, if removable. Inspect the gasket inside before wearing the respirator. Replace if the valve gasket if it looks worn or cracked.
   b. Cover the exhalation valve completely with the palm of your hand while exhaling gently to inflate the face piece slightly.
   c. The respirator facepiece should remain inflated (indication a build-up of positive pressure and no outward leakage).
   d. If you detect no leakage, replace the exhalation valve cover (if removing and inspecting it), and try the positive pressure check again.
   e. If you detect evidence of leakage:
      i. Reposition the respirator and try again (Step 2).
      ii. If you detect evidence of leakage a second time, remove and inspect the respirator (see EH&S Guidance Document, Respirator Inspection). If the respirator appears to be in good working condition, try again (Step 2).
      iii. If you detect evidence of leakage, notify your supervisor. Replacement of your respirator or parts may be necessary.

3) **Negative Pressure Check:**

   a. Cover the inhalation opening(s) on the cartridges or canisters with the palm(s) of your hands while inhaling gently to collapse the face piece slightly.
   b. If unable to effectively cover the inhalation openings on cartridges or canisters, you may use filter seal(s) (if available) or thin rubber gloves.
   c. Once the facepiece is collapsed, hold your breath for 10 seconds while keeping the inhalation openings covered.
   d. The facepiece should remain slightly collapsed (indicating negative pressure and no inward leakage).
      i. If no evidence of leakage is detected: the face piece tightness is considered adequate, the procedure is complete, and you may now use the respirator.
      ii. If you detect leakage: reposition the respirator and repeat both the positive and negative fit checks.
      iii. If you detect evidence of leakage a second time, remove and inspect the respirator (see EH&S Guidance Document, Respirator Inspection Appendix B). If the respirator appears to be in good working condition, try again (Step 3). If unable to stop the leakage with simple adjustment, see your supervisor.

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**REVISION HISTORY**

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