

Information on Fit testing for 2021

If there is a delay of an annual fit test caused by the present COVID-19 public health emergency, the EPA believes incremental risk potentially associated with such a delay can be avoided or minimized provided that handler employers and handlers comply with all other applicable requirements of the WPS and pesticide product labels and adhere to the conditions below.

- Handlers have received an annual fit test during the **prior calendar year on the specific make and model of respirator they will continue to use**
- Handlers **have not had a physiological change that affects the seal between the facepiece and the user's face** including weight loss/gain, facial surgery, or dental procedures since the last fit test.
- The employer can demonstrate that the handler has **received respirator training in the previous 12 months** and can ensure that the handler can demonstrate knowledge of the points covered in the training. If needed, please refer to the respirator training videos by [clicking here](#):
- The employer has informed the handler of the time-limited change to the annual fit test requirement to preserve and prioritize the supply of respirators because of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

It is strongly recommended for individuals who have had Covid-19 or any other issues that may affect the respiratory system to have a medical clearance completed online or by a physician before doing any work requiring a respirator. (this may be beneficial in case you have an inspection)

How does that affect 2021?

We received notice that Hazard Risk Management, the company that performs fit testing at the office, will not be offering fit testing for the 2021 season. Based on the information that I received from the NCDA&CS, if you were able to be fit tested in 2020 and your provider **cannot** fit test you in 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions, you will still be in compliance for 2021. However, if you were **not** tested in 2020, or have never been medically cleared and fit tested, you **may not** use pesticides requiring respiratory protection until you have been medically cleared and fit tested.

If you have a new employee or were not fit tested in 2020, please call the office at 919-989-5380, and we will try to locate an available fit testing site.

Medical clearance can be obtained online at: <https://www.respclearance.com/> or by calling your physician.

Print this off and place in your pesticide record book if needed.