

Seal Check Procedure for Cartridge Style Respirators

Important Information for Respirator Users:

- You need to conduct a seal check each time you put your respirator on **before** you enter the respirator use area. The purpose of a seal check is to make sure your respirator (which has been previously fit tested) is properly positioned on your face to prevent leakage during use and to detect functional problems.
- The procedure below has two parts; a positive pressure check and a negative pressure check. You must complete both parts each time. It should only take a few seconds to perform, once you learn it.
 - If you cannot pass both parts, your respirator is **not** functioning properly, see your supervisor for further instruction.

Positive pressure check:

1. Remove exhalation valve cover, if removable.
2. Cover the exhalation valve completely with the palm of your hand **while** exhaling gently to inflate the facepiece slightly.
3. The respirator facepiece should remain inflated (indicating a build-up of positive pressure and **no** outward leakage).



- If you detect **no** leakage, replace the exhalation valve cover (if removed), and proceed to conduct the negative pressure check.
- If you detect evidence of leakage, reposition the respirator (after removing and inspecting it), and try the positive pressure check again.

Negative pressure check:

4. Completely cover the inhalation opening(s) on the cartridges or canister with the palm(s) of your hands **while** inhaling gently to collapse the facepiece slightly.
- If you cannot use the palm(s) of your hands to effectively cover the inhalation openings on cartridges or canisters, you may use:
 - Filter seal(s) (if available) **OR** thin rubber gloves.

5. Once the facepiece is collapsed, hold your breath for 10 seconds **while** keeping the inhalation openings covered.
6. The facepiece should remain slightly collapsed (indicating negative pressure and **no** inward leakage).
 - If you detect **no** evidence of leakage, the tightness of the facepiece is considered adequate, the procedure is completed, and you may now use the respirator
 - If you detect leakage, reposition the respirator (after removing and inspecting it) and repeat **both** the positive and negative fit checks.