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## **RPE – Practical Tools for raising awareness through the Supply Chain**



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# Introducing Clean Air? Take Care!

- Joint HSE / BSIF initiative
- Objective - to reduce the amount of occupational respiratory diseases in the workplace
- Series of “Tools” developed to enable manufacturers and suppliers to engage end users
- Educational / Practical / Helpful

# Sources of RPE Advice



**Where do companies using or needing to use RPE get their advice?**

- **Less than 10%** use the official guidance!
- **25%** use their own experienced safety professionals, an external consultant or other sources
- **65%+** use the their safety distributor or manufacturer

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# Market Evaluation



- **5.5 million people are exposed to respiratory hazards**
- **Based on HSE research, greater than 50% are inadequately protected**
- **There is a lack of awareness of the products available to end users – particularly SMEs**
- **Many end users are either**
  - **not using RPE when they should;**
  - **or they are using the wrong type of RPE for their job**

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# 5 New Tools



## Awareness

- **Workplace Poster**
- **Are you breathing clean air at work? (DVD)**

## Educational

- **Lung Disease caused by work; you can prevent it (DVD)**
- **Helping you to correctly select and use respirators**

## Practical

- **Respirator Selection Leaflet**

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# Using the Campaign Tools



**The tools we have created are designed to be used in different ways...**

- ✓ **To create awareness at different levels in an organisation**
- ✓ **To educate, train and for reference**
- ✓ **To aid selection of the **CORRECT RPE** for the workplace**

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# Workplace poster

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**A respirator won't protect you  
UNLESS**

- ✓ You use the right mask
- ✓ You use the right filters
- ✓ You have been trained to use it
- ✓ You fit it properly
- ✓ You replace filters when required
- ✓ You store and clean it properly
- ✓ It's maintained properly

For further information contact your manager



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# Using the Workplace Poster



**To create awareness at different levels  
in an organisation**

- **Visual aid for the worker**
- **Easy to understand**
- **Promotes best practice in the workplace**

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# Are you breathing clean air at work? DVD

# Using the “User’s View” DVD

## To create awareness at different levels in an organisation

- **Winning hearts and minds of the worker**
- **Why do I need to wear RPE?**
- **Introduction to RPE**

# Tool box talk and Doctor's View DVD



**To educate, train and for reference**

## **“A doctor's view” Video**

- **Medical opinion on respiratory health issues**
- **Reinforces message**

## **Toolbox Talk**

- **Manager training on RPE**
- **Awareness of key health issues**
- **Types of RPE**
- **Best practice approach to RPE selection**
- **How to use the correct RPE**

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# Respirator Selection Leaflet



## PRODUCT SELECTION GUIDE

### About Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE)

- RPE is designed to protect the wearer from breathing in hazardous substances
- Failing to select, use, store and maintain the correct RPE can cause serious illness or death. This can cause lung and airways diseases (e.g. asthma, cancers) and nervous system damage
- Using the wrong RPE can lead to fatalities in some cases (e.g. areas with low oxygen levels)

### There are two types of RPE (Respirators & Breathing Apparatus)

#### Respirators

- Must use the correct filter(s) to remove contaminants (e.g. dusts, fumes, gases, vapours, mists, odours, etc.) found in your workplace
- Must never be used in confined spaces, areas of low oxygen level or situations as immediately dangerous to life or health. They are not suitable for use in trenches, pipes, sewers, flues or wells

#### Breathing Apparatus (BA)

- Must use breathing quality air from a source such as an air cylinder
- Must check the air quality at least once every three months or more frequently if not assured
- Suitable BA may be used in confined spaces

### When to use RPE

- RPE may be used in the following conditions:
  - As a last step control measure after putting in place other controls (e.g. extraction ventilation)
  - For short-length or infrequent work where control at source is not possible
  - As a temporary measure before other controls are in place
  - For emergency work, e.g. breakdowns, maintenance, spills
  - To escape in an emergency or to rescue people in danger
  - As additional protection in case other control measures fail to control the hazard

### 'CE' mark

- Means that the RPE meets the minimum design and performance requirements
- A CE mark on RPE does not mean it is necessarily the correct type for your work. Seek professional help where necessary (institutions who can provide advice)

### Select the correct RPE

- Use the Table in this leaflet to write down your RPE selection based on the hazards, hazardous substances, the tasks to be performed and the conditions of use. If you will not be able to select the correct RPE
- Since you have completed all of the information in the Table, it is your responsibility to decide which RPE is most suitable for your work
- BSIF member companies are able to provide help and assistance
- As the employer, it is your responsibility to decide which RPE is most suitable for your work

### Provide training

- To ensure RPE wearers know:
  - Why and when they need to use the RPE provided
  - The correct procedures for fitting, use, cleaning, maintenance and storage
  - The correct techniques to carry out the task/work when wearing RPE

### Using RPE

- Read and follow manufacturers' instructions to ensure: the RPE is used correctly; the RPE is checked for correct functioning before use; the RPE is cleaned and maintained as instructed; the RPE is replaced or discarded at least every month or as instructed
- Keep records of maintenance carried out

The information in this leaflet including those in the RPE Selection Table is based on the HSE guide HSG53. For additional guidance refer to HSE website [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk).

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Helping You to Select the Correct Respiratory Protection

Supported by:



### How to select the correct RPE Based on HSE guide HSG53

appropriate

(e.g. Cleaning, Sowing, Welding)

er, flue, well)	Yes	No	Unsure
	Yes	No	Unsure
	Yes	No	Unsure
	Yes	No	Unsure

or fatalities or serious injury

heets (get an up to date copy from your product supplier) and/or for natural substance used (e.g. flour, and hay dusts)

es or H-numbers listed in section 15 of the safety data sheet)

the task is undertaken? Up to:

ns

created during work: indicate all that apply:

iquid

es	High
	Medium
	Low

ater based

Solvent based

...°C

or room temperature

	Gas	Vapour	Fume
	Dust	Mist	Spray

es)

..... Hours ..... Minutes

..... times a day

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# Using the Respiratory Selection Leaflet



## To aid selection of the **CORRECT RPE** for the workplace – a practical solution

- **Assists the company to select the correct RPE**
- **Ensures the company considers all relevant questions**
- **Aids the supplier to provide the correct products**
- **Ensures the company is following HSE guidelines**

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# Using the Campaign Tools



## Material use and distribution

**All tools are available from:**

**[www.cleanairtakecare.org](http://www.cleanairtakecare.org)**

- ✓ **Every small, medium and large industrial company in the UK should receive a copy of this material**
- ✓ **Awareness is essential to improve the respiratory health of the UK workforce**

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