



WORKING FOR A HEALTHY FUTURE

The identification of key features for the effective use of RPE

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Key features for effective RPE use

It has been estimated that:

- 5.5 million employees;
- In 225,000 workplaces;



Are potentially at risk from respiratory disease in the workplace. (Thompson & Wake, 2007)

Key features for effective RPE use

Although only correctly seen as a last resort,
RPE is used in almost half of all workplaces



Key features for effective RPE use

RPE is used in almost half of all workplaces

It is clearly important that RPE is worn -

and worn correctly



Key features for effective RPE use

Reviews:

- Published literature
- IOM research reports from last 40 years
- Collective experience of IOM hygienists, asbestos consultants and others

Key features for effective RPE use

From the reviews, it is clear that the first steps in any effective RPE programme start with management.

Key features for effective RPE use

Managers at all levels need to:

Recognise the need for RPE.

“Cutting these high density blocks is dusty work”



Key features for effective RPE use

Managers at all levels also need to:

- Recognise the need for RPE;
- Accept their role in an effective programme.



Key features for effective RPE use

Managers at all levels also need to:

- Recognise the need for RPE;
- Accept their role in an effective programme;
- Ensure that appropriate RPE is selected;



Key features for effective RPE use

Managers at all levels also need to:

- Recognise the need for RPE;
- Accept their role in an effective programme;
- Ensure that appropriate RPE is selected;

- Ensure that sufficient RPE is provided;
- Ensure that information and training needs are met;

Key features for effective RPE use

Managers at all levels need to:

- Play their part in enforcement and supervision, including leading by example where appropriate;



Key features for effective RPE use

Managers at all levels need to:

- Make suitable provision for cleaning, maintenance and storage (as appropriate).



Key features for effective RPE use

The following workforce issues were identified:

- Hazard awareness and risk perception
- Behaviour (attitudes)
- Worker involvement
- Comfort



Key features for effective RPE use

The following workforce issues were identified:

- disability



Key features for effective RPE use

The following workforce issues were identified:

- and Compatibility



Key features for effective RPE use

Comfort and disability issues:

- respiratory resistance;
- discomfort (e.g. pressure and/or chafing);
- thermal discomfort;
- impaired communication;
- other interactions/interference with work activities.



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In conclusion:

The role of management is paramount in recognising the need for RPE and providing technically and ergonomically effective devices in sufficient quantities.

Only then does any focus on the role of the employee, in wearing the RPE correctly at the appropriate times, become viable.

Key features for effective RPE use

Any questions?



Work funded by HSE whose support is gratefully acknowledged, as is the help of IOM colleagues. (©“Clean Air – Take Care” HSE & Bsif)