

3M Masks- Maintenance of Respirators

The preferred reusable half-face respirator for use in this University is the 3M 7500 series; your personal face-fit test card will confirm the size of respirator you have been provided with (S, M, and L available).

The preferred full-face respirator for use in this University is the 3M 6000 series; your personal face - fit test card will confirm the size of respirator you have been provided with (S, M, and L available).



3M 7500



3M 6000

Before each use:

Check the integrity of the straps and face seal. Check that the filters are in date (especially important for intermittent users) and that they are the correct filter type to protect against the hazardous substance you are about to be exposed to.

Wearer Seal Check (Positive Pressure Function Test):

Place palm of hand over exhalation valve cover and exhale GENTLY. If the facepiece bulges slightly and no air leaks are detected between the facepiece and the face, a proper fit has been achieved. If air leaks detected, reposition respirator on face and/or adjust tension of straps to eliminate leakage and repeat test. If you cannot achieve a proper fit, do not enter the contaminated area.

Cleaning after each short-term use:

Filters should be removed and both the interior and exterior surfaces of the facepiece wiped carefully with 3M facepiece wipes, or other proprietary hard surface disinfectant wipes. When dry the facepiece should be stored in a sealed polythene bag (or sealable box) in clean, dry conditions, away from direct sunlight, sources of high temperature petroleum and solvent vapours.

Cleaning after long-term use and at regular intervals:

Disassemble by removing filters, cartridges, and centre adapter cover, and in 6000S only the internal nose cup. Full disassembly/assembly instructions are contained in the booklet supplied with your respirator.

Clean and sanitise the facepiece (excluding filters/cartridges) by immersing in warm water (max 50°C), a neutral detergent can be added, scrub with a soft brush until



clean. Do not use cleaners containing lanolin or other oils. In the case of respirators that have been used in relation to biological agents the respirator should be disinfected by soaking in a quaternary ammonia disinfectant or sodium hypochlorite (50ppm chlorine solution). Rinse in fresh, warm water and air dry (max. temp. 50°C) in a non-contaminated atmosphere. The lens fitted to the 6000S series is polycarbonate and should not be subjected to abrasive cleaners or solvents. Full disassembly/assembly instructions are contained in the booklet supplied with your respirator.

Maintenance and test:

Inhalation and exhalation valves should be changed at least every 2 years after commencement of use, or 6 years after manufacture, whichever is earlier. All components of the 7500 can be individually replaced, on the 6000S only the inhalation valves, inhalation gaskets and exhalation valves can be replaced. If any other part of a 6000S series respirator fails, or is missing, the whole respirator must be replaced. **Only manufacturers proprietary replacement parts should be used.**

To stay compliant with the law, all reusable respirators must have regular maintenance and a log must be kept. This should be carried out at least once a month, however if the respirator is used only occasionally, an examination and test should be made before use and/or every three months. Below is a form that can be used as an aid to help you in your monthly examinations and act as a maintenance log of your personal respirator.

If your respirator is temporarily withdrawn from service due to fault and awaiting parts note this and carry out further examination upon fitting of new parts. If the respirator is to be permanently withdrawn from service note this, file the log, and complete a new log for the new replacement respirator.

Examination and maintenance logs must be kept for at least 5 years.

[Maintenance Log \(Excel\)](#)

Face fit retesting:

The Occupational Hygiene Unit recommends retesting every **three** years to check that the mask still has an acceptable fit. If you have significant facial changes within that time (gain/loss of weight, broken nose, broken jaw) then you should come back for a retest before the three year period is up. You will not be called back for retesting, but are expected to follow [the process for booking a test](#) published on our website.

Face fit reports:

Details of your face fit test will be uploaded to the University's COSHH Health Passport System (CHPS). This system manages an individual's health record and all staff are required to keep such a record if they may be exposed to a sensitising agent. We will no longer be emailing copies of test results following a test unless an



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individual is not using the CHPS system or the individual has [requested a copy of their results](#).

Document version

Version number	Summary of change	Date and by whom
V1.0	New template	June 2023 HE

If you require this document in an alternative format, please contact The Health and Safety Department on health.safety@ed.ac.uk or call (0131) 651 4255.