



## Respirator User Seal Check Procedure

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This procedure provides information for affected employees on how to successfully conduct positive and negative pressure seal checks in accordance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Respiratory Protection Standard Appendix B-1 User Seal Check Procedures (Mandatory) (29 CFR 1910.134 App B-1).

Affected employees who wear tight-fitting respirators must perform either a positive or negative pressure seal check to ensure that an adequate seal has been achieved each time they put their respirator on. For either check, the employee will begin by donning their respirator and adjusting or tightening the straps to secure the facepiece.

To conduct a positive pressure seal check, the employee shall:

- Close off the exhalation valve or otherwise seal by covering or blocking the valve.
- Exhale gently so that slight positive pressure builds up inside the facepiece.
- If the pressure remains without air leakage, the fit of the respirator is considered satisfactory.

To conduct a negative pressure check, the employee shall:

- Close or seal the inlet openings of the cartridge.
- Inhale gently so that the facepiece collapses slightly and hold for ten seconds.
- If the facepiece remains collapsed without air leakage for the duration, the fit of the respirator is considered satisfactory.

As an alternative to positive and negative pressure checks, affected employees may follow the respirator manufacturer's recommended procedures for performing a user seal check provided that the manufacturer's procedures are equally effective in confirming an adequate seal has been achieved.

Following a failed seal check, affected employees must notify their supervisor or EHSS.