

NAVIMFAC PACNORWEST Respiratory Protection Program

Approximately 400 employees participate in Naval Intermediate Maintenance Facility, Pacific Northwest's (NAVIMFAC PACNORWEST), highly successful respiratory protection program. Every respirator user must qualify annually to use, and to continue to use, respiratory protection equipment. Employees who meet program criteria receive a "Respiratory Protection Program Qualification and Certification" card authorizing them to use the respiratory protective device(s) specified on the card. To receive the card, they must pass a physical examination and be trained and fit-tested for each type of respiratory protection equipment listed.



Safety specialist using dedicated quantitative fit testing unit to prepare sailor for respirator use.

A quantitative fit testing unit ensures that NAVIMFAC PACNORWEST employees get the best available respirator fit to maximize protection against inhalation of air contaminants in their workspaces. Having a dedicated quantitative fit testing unit on site increases shop efficiency by eliminating the need to send respirator users to another activity for periodic fit tests.

At NAVIMFAC PACNORWEST, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are posted in each shop where respiratory protection may be required. The SOPs identify tasks requiring respiratory protection, the type(s) of respirator(s) needed to perform each task, as well as use, care, and limitations of the respiratory protection devices.



Wearing sandblast air line respirator in walk-in booth.

Oversight for the Respiratory Protection Program is the responsibility of an Industrial Hygienist. In order to address the specific inhalation hazards found at NAVIMFAC PACNORWEST, the Respiratory Protection Program Manager (RPPM) keeps a supply of various types and sizes of respirators in stock. The RPPM periodically sends reminders to respirator users about respiratory protection safety requirements.

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