

What is the Difference between Qualitative and Quantitative Fit Testing?

Qualitative

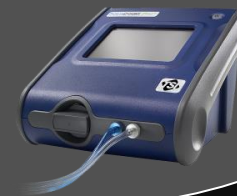
- A pass/fail test based on the user's ability to taste an irritant, such as Bitrex or banana oil
- A person is fitted with a face mask, then a hood is placed over the head and the aerosol irritant is sprayed into the hood.
- Each test can take up to 20 minutes to complete.
- This method cannot provide testing for full-face respirators.



The wearer is asked to perform a number of breathing activities and short exercises to determine that the mask fits correctly on the face

Quantitative

- A person is fitted with a face mask, which is then connected to a machine called a PortaCount.
- The PortaCount measures the concentration of particles in the air as well as the concentration of particles respired into the face mask.
- The number of particles in the ambient air is then divided by the number of particles respired, this number is called the 'Fit Factor'.
- The quantitative method is much faster and more accurate than the Qualitative method, and can effectively test the efficiency of full face masks.
- Each test takes less than 3 minutes



QUALITATIVE VS. QUANTITATIVE FIT TESTING	Document No.:	WEB-REF-05	Version No.:	1A
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At QSolutions Group, we do not take chances when it comes to health and safety.

We are proud to run our fit testing operations, both on-site and at our office, using the quantitative method almost exclusively. With the efficiency and precision of the PortaCount, we find it counterintuitive to evaluate using the qualitative hood test, unless absolutely necessary. This means we can deliver a fast and valuable service that provides superior confidence in the wearer's face mask at no extra cost to the client.

Our team of experienced fit testers provide briefing on how to fit, remove and maintain face masks effectively during as standard during the test. This ensures both the longevity of the respirator and the safety of the wearer.

Booking a fit test with us is easy using the *Appointments* tab on our website.

