



Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE)

Please note that as part of our duty of care responsibilities we must ensure the safety and welfare of all operatives and visitors to our sites.

The HSE require us as a Principle Contractor to plan and implement a strategy to manage occupational health risks.

The COSHH Regulations 2002 require us to manage any risks that operatives may be exposed to on our sites, including exposure to dust. There are three main types of dust namely silica dust, wood dust and other lower toxicity dusts such as plasterboard and limestone.

HSE Guidance requires the control of unavoidable dust through water suppression and extraction, but also requires the wearing of respiratory protective equipment (RPE), where the controls alone are not adequate. The general level of protection for construction dust has an assigned protection factor (APF) of 20, which means the wearer only breathes in one twentieth of the amount of dust in the air. The RPE must be face fitted by a competent person and come with a P3 filter.

RPE must be worn whenever there is an assessed risk of exposure to dust. Our Site Managers will be requested to ensure that this important protection is worn and that operatives are not exposed to dust without protection. We will provide any operative without adequate RPE with a face fitted P3 mask and will deduct the cost from monies due. (Approx £25 per mask).

Our Site Manager will also ensure that all RPE equipment is regularly examined and that filters are changed according to manufacturer's instructions.

For More Information please see HSE Publication Construction Dust - HSE Construction Information Sheet No.36 (Revision 2)