Infection Prevention Guidelines for Cleaning of Equipment used for Respirator Fit Testing

Updated May 18, 2021

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance for cleaning of hoods and nebulizer nozzles between each fit test. Refer to respirator Manufacturer's Instructions for Use (MIFU) to determine whether the respirator requires fit testing. Always refer to the MIFU for the approved cleaning and disinfection processes. If no process is provided by the manufacturer, use the instructions below.

Key Considerations

- Colleagues administering fit testing are to remain masked at all times during the test. Refer to the PPE Guidebook for details regarding the appropriate respiratory protection.
- Colleagues being fit tested are to remain masked until instructed to remove their face covering and don the respirator when instructed by the tester.
- Qualitative fit testing (QLFT) with an OSHA-recommended solution (e.g., saccharin, Bitrex™, etc.) involves a hood worn over the subject’s head (use the same hood for sensitivity testing and fit testing). This will be the preferred method of fit testing.
- Cleaning reduces the likelihood of cross-contamination and helps maintain the operating parameters of the fit testing equipment.
- Each ministry is required by OSHA to ensure that the equipment used for fit testing is kept cleaned.

Approved disinfectant

- For a list of EPA-registered disinfectants, refer to: https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2
  - If an EPA-registered disinfectant is not available, disinfect using either:
    - 70% Isopropanol solution with 1-minute contact time, or if isopropanol is not available,
    - Bleach (sodium hypochlorite) solution (at a free chlorine concentration of 5,000 ppm) with 1-minute contact time.
- Some cleaning and/or sanitizing products can pose health risks if they come into contact with a user’s skin or are inhaled. Observe all appropriate precautions as described in the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for the disinfectant.
- Not all disinfectants have been tested on all fit test equipment, and some disinfectant products may be found to decrease the useful life of the hood or nebulizer.

Preparation for Fit Test

- Gather needed cleaning supplies and wipe hood and nebulizer prior to use
- Keep single use alcohol wipes on hand to allow colleagues to wipe items prior to use
- All fit test equipment should be thoroughly inspected before use and should be discarded if any signs of damage
Cleaning of hood:
- Cleaning should be done between use and prior to being stored at end of use
- Refer to MIFU on the cleaning of hood
- In the absence of MIFU, wipe hood surface with an EPA-registered disinfectant
- Allow hood to dry prior to use

Cleaning of nebulizer nozzles:
- Cleaning should be done between use and prior to being stored at end of use
- Disinfect the nozzle with a 70% Isopropanol solution with 1-minute contact time (e.g., alcohol wipe) and allow to air dry
- Rinse nozzle at end of day in warm water to prevent clogging and allow to dry overnight

Preparation for storage:
- At the end of the day, discard unused solution and clean any remaining solution from the nebulizer, per the MIFU.
- Make certain that all equipment has been wiped down and dried prior to storage.