

# REGULATORY UPDATE

September 26, 2019

**PERTAINING TO:** General Industry, Construction Industry, Shipyard Employers

**REGULATORY AGENCY:** Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA)

**REFERENCE:** Federal Register / Vol. 84, No. 187 / Thursday, September 26, 2019 / Rules and Regulations

## UPDATE:

“OSHA is approving two additional quantitative fit testing protocols for inclusion in appendix A of the Respiratory Protection Standard. These protocols are: The modified ambient aerosol condensation nuclei counter (CNC) quantitative fit testing protocol for full-facepiece and half-mask elastomeric respirators, and the modified ambient aerosol CNC quantitative fit testing protocol for filtering facepiece respirators. The protocols apply to employers in general industry, shipyard employment, and the construction industry. Both protocols are abbreviated variations of the original OSHA-approved ambient aerosol CNC quantitative fit testing protocol (often referred to as the PortaCount protocol), but differ from the test by the exercise sets, exercise duration, and sampling sequence. These protocols will serve as alternatives to the four existing quantitative fit testing protocols already listed in appendix A of the Respiratory Protection Standard and will maintain safety and health protections for workers while providing additional flexibility and reducing compliance burdens.”

## SUMMARY:

OSHA has approved two additional quantitative fit testing protocols for inclusion in its Respiratory Protection Standard. Both are shorter variants of the original OSHA-approved CNC protocol, but have fewer test exercises, shorter exercise duration and a more streamlined sampling sequence. The rule does not require employers to update or replace their current fit testing methods, and does not impose additional costs.

## RESOURCE:

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/federalregister/2019-09-26>