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Date : Oisterwijk, <DATUM>
Reference : <kenmerk>
Subject : Question about fittesting of tight fitting masks according to the HSE-protocol

Dear Mr. Möller (and colleague's),

Ascert is a foundation which has an agreement with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment (in Dutch: ministerie van Sociale Zaken en Werkgelegenheid or SZW) on basis of which they are the government body for drawing up and managing the certification schemes for the removal of asbestos in the Netherlands. The relevant stakeholders of the investigation and removal of asbestos are represented within the Ascert Foundation.

In 2014 additional rules for a correct usage and fit for (tight-fitting) respiratory protective equipment (RPE) have been adopted to the certification scheme. One of the requirements is that wearers of RPE's have to fittest their RPE on an annual basis. For the procedures and instructions on how to perform the fittest is being referred to the HSE protocol HSE 282/28 (OC 282/28, Version No & Date 6: 30/04/2012).

In cooperation with (renowned) suppliers of RPE's (see company names below), who are mainly conducting the fittesting, the experiences with fittesting are shared and evaluated in so called monitoring meetings. In the framework of those meetings a question has been raised about fittesting of full face masks.

The question has first been addressed to HSE in the UK since they are the drafter of the HSE protocol. The reply of HSE was that in cases as described in our question it would be expected that the manufacturer should answer the question. Based on the reply of HSE, Ascert and the suppliers of RPE's have agreed on forwarding the question to you as manufacturer of the Scott Vision 2 and Scott Vision 3.

The question at hand is the following.

The situation on removal of asbestos in the Netherlands is that depending on the risk classification of the removal of asbestos (tight fitting) full face masks with powered air supply or with constant flow airline are used. Fitting is linked to brand, type (model) and size of the RPE. When a wearer uses both types of masks, then it is considered as different types of RPE and both masks need to be fitted.

In some cases masks of both types of air supply methods are used which are from the same brand and product range and thus the mask has the same body (innermask and facial seal). This is for instance applicable for the Scott Vision product range, where the Vision 2 is used with powered air supply systems and where the Vision 3 is used with constant flow airline systems.

The question is if in these cases fitting only one of the two mask would be sufficient or that both of them have to be fitted? Does the fitting method which is used in fitting has any relevance for the answer of the former question (fitting methods used up to now are: controlled negative pressure method or particle counting device)? In case it is relevant we like to add that due to practical reasons in (many) cases the fitter is providing the mask(s) for the fitting and not one's own (personal) mask is used.

For your information the letter to HSE as well as their reply are enclosed.

At this moment there is unclarness in the fittest practise about the above matter. Because of this it would be highly appreciated if we can receive your reply in short term (preferable within three weeks).

Sincerely Yours,

Mr. Kees van Dongen
Chairman of Ascet

Names of companies involved:

AMS-Visser B.V.

AST Holland BV

Best B.V.

Dehaco B.V.