

## Appendix 1: RPE Inspection Guideline Summary

### 1.) Assessing the adequacy of the selected RPE

The COSHH assessment should address when RPE is appropriate to control exposure for specific tasks. The RPE will need to provide adequate protection against the hazard/s present and reduce exposure to a level that will protect the wearer's health. Employers can follow guidance in HSG53 or use the online RPE Selector Tool and seek advice from their RPE suppliers to determine the appropriate type of RPE and the protection factor required.

### 2.) Assessing the suitability of the selected RPE

To protect the health of the wearer the RPE must be suitable for:

1. the individual wearer
2. the task they are doing
3. the environment in which they are working

### 3.) Assessing the management and administrative controls for the RPE programme.

There are three key factors to focus on during a RPE inspection:

4. Information, instruction and training given to employees
5. Preventative maintenance systems
6. Clean storage provision

The following key points should be confirmed during the inspection:

<b>Confirm with the duty holder during an inspection</b>	
1	The engineering control measures identified in the COSHH assessment are in place to reduce exposure to the airborne contaminant
2	The employer can justify the use of RPE and the type selected
3	The RPE will provide adequate protection against the airborne contaminant.
4	The RPE is suitable for the wearer, work task and the environment
5	If tight fitting RPE is used make sure each wearer has undergone a fit test.
6	The wearer is trained in the use of the equipment
7	The RPE is maintained and stored correctly.
8	There are robust procedures for the replacement of consumables such as filters or filtering facepiece masks.