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A new starter

Abi Baker joined us on the 20th of March as a Health & Safety Administrator covering Kerry's duties whilst she's on maternity leave.
She will then start training to become a full time Health & Safety Advisor.

Respiratory Protective Equipment

The law requires employers to prevent or control the exposure of employees and others (e.g. subcontractors) to hazardous substances at work.
Sometimes, you or your employees may be required to work in environments where there are harmful substances contaminating the air, or where oxygen supply is low.

One way to protect yourself or your employees in these situations would be to use respiratory protective equipment (RPE), however this should only be used after all other reasonably practicable methods of controlling exposure, such as extraction systems, have been exhausted.

Sometimes your usual methods of controlling exposure may be impractical, especially if exposure to hazardous substances is infrequent or short-term. In these instances, RPE may be a good idea.

To read more about RPE guidance from the HSE, visit:
http://www.hse.gov.uk/respiratory-protective-equipment

Face Fit & Fit2Fit Testing

A study undertaken in 2010 by the Health & Safety Laboratory for the HSE showed that only half of the companies they surveyed were effective in providing adequate RPE that protected their employees.

It is a legal requirement that workers using tight fitting respiratory protective equipment (face pieces/masks) must be fit tested by a competent person.

This requirement is detailed in Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) regulations.

The most widely available and recognised method of testing RPE by a competent person is having Fit2Fit accreditation, which is a competency scheme developed by the BSIF, HSE, and other industry stakeholders.

The HSE consider having Face Fit/Fit2Fit as demonstrating good practice, and it could show to clients that you do the most you can to protect your employees.

For more information on Fit2Fit, visit: http://fit2fit.org/

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We are always looking to assist businesses with their Health & Safety, if you know of anyone who would benefit from our services please do let us know. Many thanks.