

HSE are aware of an incident at an NHS Hospital in England where a TSI Portacount quantitative face fit testing machine was incorrectly set up for US test protocols rather than the UK test protocols.

The purpose of this alert is to remind you of the following:

- Fit testers should ensure that the quantitative face fit testing machines are set to UK test protocols. Failing to do so could result in a false positive result because the UK and US test requirements are different.
- Fit testers using either the quantitative or qualitative method of fit testing are required to be competent i.e. appropriately trained, qualified and experienced. Competency can be demonstrated in many ways, but the easiest way is to become [Fit2Fit accredited](#). Further advice can be found in the HSE publication [Guidance on respiratory protective equipment \(RPE\) fit testing \(INDG479\)](#).
- Tight-fitting respirators (such as disposable FFP3 masks and reusable half masks) rely on having a good seal with the wearer's face. A face fit test is therefore essential to ensure that the respirator protects the wearer.

Additional information is available at www.hse.gov.uk