

AS/NZS 1715:2009 Rul 1:2023

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Ruling was prepared by Joint Technical Committee SF-010, Occupational Respiratory Protection. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 11 October 2023 and by the New Zealand Standards Executive on 04 October 2023.

This Ruling was published on 27 October 2023.

The following are represented on Committee SF-010:

Association of Accredited Certification Bodies
Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council
Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU)
Australian Industry Group
Australian Institute of Health & Safety
Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists
Better Regulation Division (Fair Trading, SafeWork NSW, TestSafe)
Composites Australia
Fire and Emergency New Zealand
Joint Accreditation System of Australia & New Zealand
National Measurement Institute
New Zealand Institute of Safety Management
New Zealand Occupational Hygiene Society
Royal Australian Chemical Institute
Site Safe New Zealand
Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)
Weld Australia
WorkSafe New Zealand

Keeping Standards up-to-date

Ensure you have the latest versions of our publications and keep up-to-date about Amendments, Rulings, Withdrawals, and new projects by visiting:

www.standards.org.au

www.standards.govt.nz

ISBN 978 1 76139 401 0

Ruling to AS/NZS 1715:2009 Selection, use and maintenance of respiratory protective equipment

First published as AS/NZS 1715:2009 Rul 1:2023.

© Standards Australia Limited/the Crown in right of New Zealand, administered by the New Zealand Standards Executive 2023

All rights are reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or copied in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, without the written permission of the publisher, unless otherwise permitted under the Copyright Act 1968 (Cth) or the Copyright Act 1994 (New Zealand).

Ruling to AS/NZS 1715:2009 Selection, use and maintenance of respiratory protective equipment

Ruling

Enquiry A

Can facial hair interfere with the face seal/sealing surface area for a tight-fitting full facepiece or half facepiece facemasks for respirators including Positive Pressure, Air-Supplied (continuous flow or positive pressure demand) or PAPR (continuous flow or positive pressure demand) respirators?

Ruling A

Yes.

Facial hair can interfere. AS/NZS 1715:2009 provides information regarding facial hair in Clauses 4.4.3.1, 4.5.5.2, 8.3 and B2 to B5 directly applying to the use of a tight-fitting full facepiece or half facepiece facemask for a respirator including positive pressure, air-supplied (continuous flow or positive pressure demand) or PAPR (continuous flow or positive pressure demand) respirators.

Enquiry B

Are there any exemptions allowed in AS/NZS 1715:2009 for the use of a tight-fitting full facepiece or half facepiece facemask for a respirator including positive pressure, air-supplied (continuous flow or positive pressure demand) and PAPR (continuous flow or positive pressure demand) respirators when the wearer has facial hair within the sealing area of the facemask?

Ruling B

No.

There are no exemptions in AS/NZS 1715:2009 to allow for facial hair within the sealing area of the facemask.

Enquiry C

When fit testing a respirator including positive pressure, air-supplied (continuous flow or positive pressure demand) or PAPR (continuous flow or positive pressure demand) tight fitting full facepiece or half facepiece facemask, does this need to be done in negative pressure, i.e. motor turned off or when not under positive pressure?

Ruling C

Yes.

This is done to isolate and test the fit performance of the facepiece to the wearer than the overall effect provided for the facepiece used under positive pressure by the wearer. See Clause 4.4.3.1. See Clause 5.2.4.2 for PAPR positive pressure demand with full facepiece and half facepiece respirators.

Enquiry D

Are there possible changes occurring in the future to Standards to allow the use of a tight-fitting full facepiece or half facepiece facemask for a respirator including positive pressure, air-supplied (continuous flow or positive pressure demand) and PAPR (continuous flow or positive pressure demand) respirators when the wearer has facial hair?

Ruling D

Yes.

Research required

Standards Australia Committee SF-010, Occupational Respiratory Protection, as well as the international Committee ISO/TC 94/SC 15, Respiratory protective devices, are currently discussing and reviewing available information and studies on facial hair and the use of respirators as to whether further changes to the fit testing arrangements and the use of facial hair with respirators can be considered within the appropriate standards. This includes a review of the Singh Thattha (beard wrapping) technique.

Some Australian State Health Departments have adopted use of this technique, and users should consult with their relevant Health Department or Work Health Safety regulator to determine the requirements in their jurisdiction.

Standards Australia

Standards Australia is an independent company, limited by guarantee, which prepares and publishes most of the voluntary technical and commercial standards used in Australia. These standards are developed through an open process of consultation and consensus, in which all interested parties are invited to participate. Through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Commonwealth government, Standards Australia is recognized as Australia's peak national standards body.

Standards New Zealand

The first national Standards organization was created in New Zealand in 1932. The New Zealand Standards Executive is established under the Standards and Accreditation Act 2015 and is the national body responsible for the production of Standards.

Australian/New Zealand Standards

Under a Memorandum of Understanding between Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand, Australian/New Zealand Standards are prepared by committees of experts from industry, governments, consumers and other sectors. The requirements or recommendations contained in published Standards are a consensus of the views of representative interests and also take account of comments received from other sources. They reflect the latest scientific and industry experience. Australian/New Zealand Standards are kept under continuous review after publication and are updated regularly to take account of changing technology.

International Involvement

Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand are responsible for ensuring that the Australian and New Zealand viewpoints are considered in the formulation of international Standards and that the latest international experience is incorporated in national and Joint Standards. This role is vital in assisting local industry to compete in international markets. Both organizations are the national members of ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission).

Visit our websites

www.standards.org.au www.standards.govt.nz



GPO Box 476 Sydney NSW 2001
Phone (02) 9237 6000
mail@standards.org.au
www.standards.org.au



PO Box 1473 Wellington 6140
Free phone 0800 782 632
enquiries@standards.govt.nz
www.standards.govt.nz