



Guidance and Information: Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE)- information for those persons with facial hair

If you are a person who has facial hair (Facial hair - this term applies equally to full beards and/or stubble growth. Moustaches, unless large, will not normally encroach on the respirator seal area and do not normally preclude face-fit testing. Some small 'goatee' type beards that do not extend under the chin or wider than the edges of the mouth, can fit wholly within the respirator and may not preclude face-fit testing.), in the area of contact of the face seal of a tight fitting full-face, or half-face, respirator (mask) you will not be able to be face fit tested for use of such Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Normal mask type respirators rely for their efficiency on a tight fit to the wearers face and the Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) to the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) requires that all wearers of such devices be personally face-fit tested to ensure that the respirator that they are provided with fits properly and thus affords the level of protection expected of it. Facial hair in the area of the respirator face seal prevents a proper seal being achieved, or maintained, as the facial skin distorts during normal working conditions and/or speech, thus the Regulations preclude testing of such persons and the use by them of this type of respirator.

If, subject to risk assessment of the tasks that you are to undertake, it is concluded that you require to wear respiratory protective equipment the only option available to you is the use of a powered positive pressure respirator allied with a full headtop of a type suitable for the activity to be undertaken. As powered respirators do not rely on a tight fit to the face to afford protection, but rather are loose fitting and afford protection through the supply of filtered air to the interior of the headtop this creating an atmosphere within the headtop that is at positive pressure to ambient and thus prevents the ingress of airborne pollutants.

The powered respirator recommended for University of Edinburgh staff is the 3M Jupiter Turbo Unit (see below), this should be fitted with the appropriate filters and connected to a headtop suitable for the activity being undertaken (see below for selection). Other makes and models may be suitable.

For most laboratory and animal house activity the 3M HT-101 QRS or the 3M HT-103 QRS headtop will be suitable. For laboratory use where chemical splash is a hazard then the 3M HT-401 QRS or the 3M HT- 402 will be required, these also provide low and medium energy impact protection respectively. Integral head protection is provided by the 3M HT-701 QRS and the 3M HT-840 QRS, with bump only protection being provided by the 3M HT-820 QRS, there are also three headtops suitable for use when welding. The Health and Safety and Procurement Departments have secured favourable discounts with Arco and 3M, therefore the catalogue prices below should be ignored and the table appended at the end of this information sheet referred to instead.



3M

3M Jupiter Turbo Unit

- The Jupiter turbo unit boasts many advanced features, it is efficient and comfortable, easy to use and maintain, and offers high levels of respiratory protection.
- The turbo is compact and lightweight, allowing maximum ease and freedom of movement, even in small spaces.
- It features a new lightweight nickel metal hydride battery and is mounted on a padded comfort seat, for a snug fit that remains comfortable even after hours of wear.
- There are three battery options - 4 hour, 8 hour and 4 hour intrinsically safe.
- The electronic alarm gives an audible and visual alarm in case of low battery and/or low levels of flow (normally when the filters are clogged or hose is snagged).
- The turbo utilises a new range of filter canisters with a unique half turn attachment, and a filter cover which prevents damage or sparks entering the filter body as well as allowing shower decontamination.
- Intrinsically Safe with appropriate hoodtop (excluding welding hoodtops) and hose (lightweight) to Ex t I 2 G D.
- Nominal Protection Factor - 50.
- Assigned Protection Factor - 20.
- Approved to the latest standard EN 12941.



20A9370

£221.83

100 Series for lung and head cover protection



All the headtops here feature the innovative Quick Release Swivel (QRS) connection. It is extremely easy to attach and detach, in addition it swivels to avoid loops and kinks in the hose.



8 3M HT-101 QRS Lightweight Headtop

- Lightweight headtops, offering maximum comfort over long periods.
- Ideal for applications such as laboratories and pharmaceutical industries where lung protection and light head covering is required.

20A5700 £16.91



9 3M HT-103 QRS Lightweight Headtop

- Lightweight headtops, offering maximum comfort over long periods.
- Ideal for applications such as laboratories and pharmaceutical industries where lung protection and light head covering is required.
- Grey showerproof fabric.

20A5800 £22.57



10 3M HT-120 QRS Lightweight Headtop

- The HT-120 lightweight headtop offers head, face and shoulder coverage making it suitable for pharmaceutical and agricultural applications.

20A5900 £37.67

400/600 Series for lung, face and eye protection



11 3M HT-401 QRS Headtop Acetate Visor

- HT-401 with acetate visor which provides protection to EN 166 2.F.3 (low energy impact and chemical splash).
- The lightweight headtop provides clear all round vision ideal for applications such as spraying, sanding, woodworking and glass fibre.

20A6000 £74.74



12 3M HT-402 QRS Headtop Polycarbonate Visor

- HT-402 with polycarbonate visor which provides protection to EN 166 2.B.3.9 (medium energy impact, chemical splash and molten metal).
- The lightweight headtop provides clear all round vision ideal for applications such as grinding, sanding, woodworking and glass fibre.

20A6100 £70.07



13 3M HT-615 QRS Welding Headtop

- The HT-615 offers lightweight and comfort combined with welding and respiratory protection.
- The HT-615 incorporates the Optrel Twisty comfort solar-powered, auto-darkening welding visor, with 2-position automatic shade selection (10-11 or 11-12).

20A6300 £220.48



14 3M HT-607 QRS Welding Headtop

- The HT-607 offers lightweight and comfort combined with welding and respiratory protection.
- The HT-607 welding visor includes a flip-up shade lens and spatter-resistant one-piece face and head seal.

20A6200 £90.66

700/800 Series for lung and head cover protection



15 3M HT-701 QRS Helmet Headtop

- The HT-701 is ideal for heavy industrial engineering and foundries.
- Head protection: EN 397.
- Eye protection: EN 166 2.B.3.

20A6700 £121.36



16 3M HT-749 QRS Welding Headtop

- Specifically designed for welding. It features a clear inner grinding visor beneath the welding shield, which even with the shield raised, still offers eye, face and respiratory protection when undertaking grinding, cutting or fettling.
- Head protection: EN 397.
- Eye protection: EN 166 2.B.3.

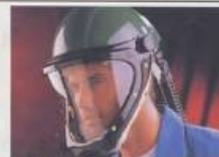
20A7100 £179.48



17 3M HT-820 QRS Bumpcap Headtop

- A clear-view bump cap which meets the head protection requirements of EN 812.
- The polycarbonate visor offers excellent optical qualities and conforms to EN 166 1.B.3.9 (optional acetate visor available to order).

20A7200 £173.09



18 3M HT-840 QRS Helmet Headtop

- A clear-view hard hat meeting the head protection requirements of EN 397.
- The polycarbonate visor offers excellent optical qualities and conforms to EN 166 1.B.3.9 (optional acetate visor available to order).

20A7300 £207.71

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All prices are subject to VAT

Note to Animal Unit users:

It may be, in exceptional cases, that the Animal Unit that you use has a spare power unit and that this can be borrowed at each visit, thus you as the user would only require to purchase a headtop and filters. Please check with the relevant Animal Unit Manager.

Should you require further information please contact [The Occupational Hygiene Unit](#).



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

Health & Safety Department

Document version

Version number	Summary of change	Date and by whom
V1.0	New template	June 2023 HE

If you require this document in an alternative format, please contact The Health and Safety Department on health.safety@ed.ac.uk or call (0131) 651 4255.