



WINNIPEG
Air Testing

Practical Health and Safety Solutions

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Personal Protective Equipment Usage Assessment

Personal protective equipment or PPE can include respirators, respirator cartridges, gloves and disposable coveralls. How much does your company spend on PPE every year? Are you sure you have the right PPE? Are you sure you need all that PPE?

In many cases, PPE is issued in the absence of data. Sometimes it is issued in response to a concern such as an odour or simply “exposure” to a product. Only a modest number of exposures in workplaces are above the allowable levels. In some cases, a lower rated form of PPE can be used. In some cases, the testing has shown that the PPE is not needed at all.

In one case, workers were wearing combination respirator cartridges that protect from a wide range of the chemicals including acids. The investigation revealed that that only one worker in the facility in its own separate room uses acids. Thus, all of the other workers could be switched to other less expensive cartridges.

In another case, a company was spending a lot of money for disposable coveralls. The coveralls are excellent and provide protection from acids and bases. However, that was not the product that was used. Lower rated – but still protective for their product – coveralls were substituted at significant savings. As a bonus, the new coveralls were more breathable so the workers found them cooler.

If you would like for information or discussing a PPE Usage Assessment for your workplace, please contact me at (204) 668-3141.

Sincerely,

Winnipeg Air Testing

Per:

Douglas N. Wylie

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