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The following information supports the need for users of tight-fitting respirators to be clean-shaven in order to obtain a suitable seal to the face.

## **Occupational Health & Safety Act**

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### **Duties of employers**

25. (1) An employer shall ensure that,

- (a) the equipment, materials and protective devices as prescribed are provided;
- (b) the equipment, materials and protective devices provided by the employer are maintained in good condition;
- (c) the measures and procedures prescribed are carried out in the workplace;
- (d) the equipment, materials and protective devices provided by the employer are used as prescribed;

25. (2)(h) take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances for the protection of a worker;

### **Additional duties of employers**

26. (1) In addition to the duties imposed by section 25, an employer shall,

- (g) comply with a standard limiting the exposure of a worker to biological, chemical or physical agents as prescribed;
- (k) where so prescribed, provide a worker with written instructions as to the measures and procedures to be taken for the protection of a worker; and
- (l) carry out such training programs for workers, supervisors and committee members as may be prescribed.

### **Duties of supervisor**

27. (1) A supervisor shall ensure that a worker,

- (a) works in the manner and with the protective devices, measures and procedures required by this Act and the regulations; and

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(b) uses or wears the equipment, protective devices or clothing that the worker's employer requires to be used or worn.

Additional duties of supervisor

(2) Without limiting the duty imposed by subsection (1), a supervisor shall,

(b) where so prescribed, provide a worker with written instructions as to the measures and procedures to be taken for protection of the worker; and

(c) take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances for the protection of a worker.

### **Duties of workers**

28. (1) A worker shall,

(a) work in compliance with the provisions of this Act and the regulations;

(b) use or wear the equipment, protective devices or clothing that the worker's employer requires to be used or worn;

(c) report to his or her employer or supervisor the absence of or defect in any equipment or protective device of which the worker is aware and which may endanger himself, herself or another worker; and

(d) report to his or her employer or supervisor any contravention of this Act or the regulations or the existence of any hazard of which he or she knows.

(2) No worker shall,

(b) use or operate any equipment, machine, device or thing or work in a manner that may endanger himself, herself or any other worker; or

### **Industrial Regulation 851**

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79. A worker required to wear or use any protective clothing, equipment or device shall be instructed and trained in its care and use before wearing or using the protective clothing, equipment or device

130. A worker who may be exposed to a biological, chemical or physical agent that may endanger the worker's safety or health shall be trained,

(b) in the proper use and care of required personal protective equipment;

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## Control of Exposure to Biological and Chemical Agents 833

3. (1) Every employer shall take all measures reasonably necessary in the circumstances to protect workers from exposure to a hazardous biological or chemical agent because of the storage, handling, processing or use of such agent in the workplace.

(2) The measures to be taken shall include the provision and use of,

(d) personal protective equipment.

7.2 (1) An employer shall protect workers from exposure to a hazardous biological or chemical agent without requiring them to wear and use personal protective equipment

(2) The employer shall provide, and workers shall wear and use, personal protective equipment appropriate in the circumstances to protect the workers from exposure to the agent, if engineering controls required by this Regulation,

(a) are not in existence or are not obtainable;

(b) are not reasonable or not practical to adopt, install or provide because of the duration or frequency of the exposures or because of the nature of the process, operation or work;

(c) are rendered ineffective because of a temporary breakdown of the controls; or

(d) are ineffective to prevent, control or limit exposure because of an emergency.

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## CSA: Z94.4 Selection, Use and Care of Respirators

### 9.2.2 Facial hair

Individuals shall present themselves for fit testing free from interference of hair where the respirator seals to the skin of the face or neck. Although the rate of hair growth varies (see examples of acceptable and unacceptable facial hair in Annex M), for many this requires being clean-shaven within the previous 24 or preferably 12 h to ensure that hair neither infringes on the sealing surface of the respirator nor interferes with valve or respirator function. A “clean-shaven” policy is best implemented through emphasis on its importance during training, through regular reminders, and ongoing verification of conformance.