

STANDARDS EXPLAINED

EN149 - Disposable filtering face piece particulate respirators

These devices are for the most part constructed from the filter media itself, which is often an electro statically charged material, and are disposable. Dust Masks protect workers against airborne particles such as dusts and powders. They are important for a range of

construction, agricultural, and pharmaceutical work. Different masks provide different levels of protection, so it's important to find the right level of protection for your workplace. There are three protection classes in this standard: FFP1, FFP2 and FFP3.

These devices cover only the nose, mouth and chin. FFP1, FFP2 and FFP3 are different classes of respirator; they offer different levels of wearer protection.

What is the difference between BS EN FFP1, FFP2 and FFP3 respirators?

- FFP3 offers the highest level of wearer protection.
- No respirator is 100% efficient, as there will be leakage around the face seal, around the valve (if applicable) and through filter penetration.
- FFP1 reduces the wearer's exposure to airborne particles by a factor of 4.
- FFP2 reduces the wearer's exposure to airborne particles by a factor of 10.
- FFP3 reduces the wearer's exposure to airborne particles by a factor of 20.

- 1. Cup/Moulded Masks** as the name suggests are usually preformed into shape.
- 2. Fold Flats** come folded flat which reduces their size and also BS ENables them to fit easily into the pocket.
- 3. Valved** versus **Non-valved** is also an important issue to consider. While non-valved masks are less expensive they do have certain disadvantages. Resistance to airflow when exhaling is higher without a valve, particularly with FFP2 and FFP3 masks meaning the user finds it harder to breathe and also the warm, moist exhaled breath can make the mask uncomfortable to wear. This becomes a major problem once you reach FFP3 levels of protection and we currently only offer our respirators with valves at this level.
- 4. Activated Carbon** can also be incorporated into this style of mask which can offer protection against nuisance level smells and odours.

	FFP1 Respirators	FFP2 Respirators	FFP3 Respirators
Protection Factor	APF = 4	APF = 10	APF = 20
Typical application	low levels of fine dust (up to 4 times Workplace Exposure limit -WEL), oil and water based mists typically found during hand sanding, drilling and cutting.	Moderate levels of fine dust (up to 10 times WEL), oil and water based mists typically found during plastering, cementing, sanding and wood dust.	Higher levels of fine dusts (up to 20 times WEL), oil and water based mists typically found when handling hazardous powders found in pharmaceutical industry or when working with biological agents and fibres.



Guide to correct fitting of maintenance-free and disposable respirators:

- Always read and follow the manufacturer's instructions, fitting, hygiene, maintenance and storage
- Before wearing the disposable respirator for the first time, training and face fit testing must be provided
- Inspect the disposable respirator before fitting, check for dirt or damage, if any of these apply discard and replace
- Check compatibility with other personal protective equipment
- Every time a tight fitting face piece is worn, remember the wearer must be clean shaven. Beards and stubble prevent a tight seal meaning the face mask will not provide protection

