

**WORKSAFE SERVICES DIVISION  
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY  
LEGISLATIVE INTERPRETATIONS**



<b>Topic</b>	Respiratory protective equipment – Clean shaven	Issued by: V.P., WorkSafe Services
<b>Statute</b>	<i>Regulation 91-191</i>	Date Issued: December 11, 1998
<b>Section</b>	47	Date Revised: February 14, 2006

**47** An employee who may be required to use respiratory protective equipment shall co-operate in attaining an effective fit of the equipment and, in particular, be as clean shaven as is necessary to ensure an effective facial seal.

**Question**

What does “clean shaven” mean? In other words, how clean-shaven does a worker have to be?

**Response:**

“Clean shaven” means being clean-shaven where the respirator seal meets the facial skin. The purpose of the requirement to be clean-shaven is to attain a proper seal of the respiratory equipment against the face. The fit is important to keep contaminants out and to ensure an effective seal is maintained during use. Since respiratory equipment is often required in emergency situations, when there is not time to do repeated fit tests, the Commission advises employers and employees that an employee should be freshly clean shaven when performing any work that may require a respirator for the task or for rescue.

When uncertain, the workplace should consult with the respirator supplier/manufacturer to determine where the boundaries of the respirator seal lie to facilitate the determination of the facial area to be clean-shaven.

*Note: The Regulations prescribe the minimum requirements for safety. The CSA Standard (Z94.4-93) cited in the Regulation requires that a competent person be appointed as the "Program Administrator", to administer and oversee the respiratory protection program. As determined by the standards of the trade or trade associations, the program administrator may prescribe certain additional requirements for safety, beyond the minimum regulatory requirements. These requirements must be respected for the successful functioning of a respiratory protection program.*