

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



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

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? How clean-shaven does a worker have to be?

Response:

The Oxford Dictionary defines “clean shaven” as being “without beard, whiskers, moustache.”

The purpose of the requirement to be clean-shaven is to attain a perfect seal of the respiratory equipment against the face. The fit is important to keep contaminants out. Since respiratory equipment is often required in emergency situations where 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.