

Dr Bob Rajan  
Technology Division,  
Health and Safety Executive,  
Magdalen House,  
Bootle, L20 3QZ.

6 January 2003

Dear Dr Rajan,

**Draft HSG53: THE SELECTION USE AND MAINTENANCE OF RESPIRATORY PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

Thank you for including the Society for Radiological Protection in the distribution of your Draft Document. The policy which the Council of the Society follows in relation to Discussion, Draft and Consultative Documents is that it only responds on those matters which have a bearing on the professional activities and status of its members and those for whom they have responsibilities. This is on the basis that the firms and institutions from which our members are drawn are able to comment in their own name on the complete range of issues addressed in any such documents.

However, on this occasion the document was passed to our Topic Group on Practical Radiation Protection to review and their comments are included in the response form attached.

I hope these comments are useful and please do not hesitate to contact me if there is any other matter in which we can be of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Pauline E Powell  
**Honorary Secretary**

# Draft HSG53: THE SELECTION USE AND MAINTENANCE OF RESPIRATORY PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

HSE invite you to submit your views and comments on the above draft document. This draft has been prepared particularly for employers operating Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs). You should note that the layout, pictures and diagrams would be further improved at the design stage.

Please use this reply form to submit your comments. This will help us to thoroughly review your comments and take appropriate action. **Your comments should reach us by no later than 10 January 2003.**

**If you wish to make comments on the examples provided (file HSG53 examples 2002) or wish to add more please use the form in revision mode.**

Forward your comments to:

Dr Bob Rajan, Technology Division, Health and Safety Executive, Magdalen House, Bootle, L20 3QZ. Alternatively you could submit your replies by electronic mail – [bob.rajan@hse.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:bob.rajan@hse.gsi.gov.uk)

Note: draft HSG 53 is on PDF print only format.

1. What is your overall impression about the booklet?  
1 star                      2 stars                      3 stars

Comments:

Between 2 and 3 stars

2. What are your views about the approach to the lay out?  
Good                      Acceptable                      Not acceptable

Comments:

The layout was acceptable but some judicious editing (removal of the pictures which essentially filled space) would not go amiss

3. Should we include any other information to make this document more user friendly to SMEs?  
Yes                      No

Comments:

For the SMEs targeted an identifiable page which could be extracted giving worker responsibilities when wearing respiratory protection would be useful. An omission is clear advice on the subject of facial hair. This is a very real issue in many working environments.

4. Do you have any specific comments on the contents of the Section "INTRODUCTION"?  
Yes                      No

Comments:

No comment

5. Do you have any specific comments on the contents of the Section "LEGAL REQUIREMENTS"?

Yes No

Comments:

No comment

6. Do you have any specific comments on the contents of the Section "HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES"?

Yes No

Comments:

Fuller references for the "Risk Phases" and the EH40 list would be very useful. The last paragraph in the Oxygen deficiency section needs rewording by perhaps including "but unacceptably low" at the end of the first sentence to make its point more clearly.

7. Do you have any specific comments on the contents of the Section "PROTECTING YOURSELF"?

Yes No

Comments:

The title is incorrect unless it means protecting the management against prosecution. The people who make these decisions are very rarely the people who wear the protection.

8. Do you have any specific comments on the contents of the Section "SELECTING RESPIRATORY PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT"?

Yes No

Comments:

Again in SMEs with standard non-varying processes, the "you" used in the text as the person making the choice of protection is not the person who is likely to be using it as the wording appears to assume. The mechanics of making a choice is however quite clear.

9. Do you have any specific comments on the contents of "RESPIRATORY PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT SELECTOR FORM"?

Yes No

Comments:

No comment

10. Do you have any specific comments on the contents of the Section on "IMPLEMENTING RPE USE IN THE WORKPLACE"?

Yes No

Comments:

From experience, the assumption (in "RPE Selector Form") that the wearers will make

the right choice of RPE because they have discussed the selection process is naive. Management needs some stronger support in this section in implementing the correct form of RPE.

11 Do you have any specific comments on the contents of the Section "SPECIAL GUIDANCE RELATING TO RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES"?

Yes No

Comments:

There appears to be either a missing sentence or an extra word (If) at the end of the first section on page 39.

12 Do you have any specific comments on the contents of the Section "SPECIAL GUIDANCE RELATING TO BIOLOGICAL AGENTS"?

Yes No

Comments:

No comment

13 Do you have any specific comments on the contents of the Section "TYPES OF RPE"?

Yes No

Comments:

No comment

14 Do you have any specific comments on the contents of the Section "FILTERS FOR RESPIRATORS"?

Yes No

Comments:

No comment

15 Do you have any specific comments on the contents of the Section "QUALITY OF COMPRESSED AIR"?

Yes No

Comments:

No comment.

16. If you have any other comments use the column below.

Specific Comments:

No comment.

