

Lung function assessments



Lung Function Assessments are an important part of a successful clean air programme. They are generally completed on an annual basis. The main aim of completing lung function testing is to identify individuals who may develop Occupational Asthma or other respiratory conditions associated with respiratory hazards in the workplace. Lung function assessments are completed using a spirometer and a respiratory questionnaire.

The assessments are based on the joint American Thoracic Society (ATS) and European Respiratory Society (ERS) standards for spirometry testing. Once assessments have been completed, they are reviewed to identify any changes in respiratory function since their previous test. If changes are detected OH Well will recommend a repeat Lung Function Assessment or refer the employee to their General Practitioner.

The aim of testing is to:

- Monitor the respiratory health of employees that are exposed to workplace respiratory hazards.
- Identify any respiratory conditions that may require medical assessment and / or treatment.
- To provide education on personal protective equipment.
- To promote and encourage compliance with wearing personal protective equipment.
- Refer staff on for medical assessment as appropriate.

Process:

- Time required for assessment is 20 minutes per person.
- A respiratory questionnaire is completed with the nurse.
- Full spirometry is completed.
- The results are discussed with the employee and a copy of the results are given to them.
- Education is given to the employee as well as advice on the use of personal protective equipment.
- Referrals are made as necessary.
- A full report is provided to the employer outlining trends and any referrals.

