



# Medical Suitability Test G26

June 2015

# Medical Suitability Test

What is the G26 examination about?

- Because respiratory protection devices cause more stress than normal to those who wear them, a medical suitability test must be carried out before using filtering respiratory protective devices.
- The medical suitability test checks whether the use of personal protection equipment under the given circumstances at the workplace conforms with the user's physical condition.



In Germany an examination according to the G26 principle "Use and selection of respiratory protective devices" is required by the Ordinance on Occupational Health Care (ArbMedVV) and the Accident Prevention Directive governing the "Principles of Prevention" (BGV/GUV-V A1).

# Medical Suitability Test

Which respiratory protection devices are concerned?

The number and type of examinations which need to be carried out depend on the respiratory protective device used:

Group 1	<p><b>Weight &lt; 3 kg, breathing resistance &lt; 5 mbar</b></p> <p>E.g. filtering devices with class P1 and P2 particulate filters, particle filtering half masks, powered air purifying respirators, compressed air hose devices</p>
Group 2	<p><b>Weight &lt; 5 kg, breathing resistance &gt; 5 mbar</b></p> <p>E.g. filtering devices with class P3 particle filters, gas and combination filters, regeneration units &lt; 5 kg, hose breathing apparatus and filtering devices in combination with protective suits</p>
Group 3	<p><b>Weight &gt; 5 kg, breathing resistance &lt; 6 mbar</b></p> <p>E.g. freely wearable insulation devices, regeneration units &gt; 5 kg</p>

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What is the scope of the G26 suitability examination?

Depending on the grouping of the respiratory protective device used, the extent of the suitability examination according to G26 can be broken down as follows:

Grouping according to G26	1	2	3
General examination	X	X	X
Laboratory values (blood, urine status)	X	X	X
Blood pressure while sitting and standing	X	X	X
Pulmonary function test		X	X
ECG		X	↓
Ergometry (stress ECG)			X
Eye and audiometric tests		X	X
X-ray of the lungs (if needed)		X	X
Duration of the examination in min.	30	45	90

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## When is a follow-up examination required?

The G26 medical suitability test must be repeated at regular intervals. The examination intervals are based on the age of the device wearer and the way the respiratory protective device is used.

### Repeating the medical suitability test:

- For persons aged up to 50 years: no later than 36 months
- For persons aged over 50 years: no later than 24 months for devices weighing up to 5 kg/  
no later than 12 months for devices weighing over 5 kg

An **additional suitability test** may be deemed necessary:

- if the responsible physician requests this
- in cases of illnesses lasting more than six weeks
- where there are repeated illnesses of a device wearer in 6 months
- in cases where reservations for health reasons arise
- at the request of the employee



## Medical Suitability Test

Are there any exceptions?

No physical fitness test is necessary for devices weighing under 3 kg without breathing resistance, escape devices or self-rescuers.

These include products such as hose breathing apparatus or powered-air-purifying respirators with a hood or helmet with which breathing air can flow freely.

This also applies to group 1 devices which are used for less than a half hour a day.



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