



Spirometry Testing in Occupational Health Programs: Best Practices for Healthcare Professionals

By Occupational Safety and Health Administration

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Paperback. 64 pages. Dimensions: 11.0in. x 8.5in. x 0.1in. Spirometry, the most common type of pulmonary function test (PFT), is used to evaluate worker respiratory health in medical surveillance programs and to screen workers for their ability to perform certain tasks. Spirometry results can play a central role in decisions about worker job assignments and personal protective equipment, and in the assessment of exposure-related health effects. OSHA standards for asbestos, cadmium, coke oven emissions, and cotton dust require spirometry testing as part of medical surveillance (see 29 CFR 1910. 1001, 1910. 1027, 1910. 1029, and 1910. 1043). OSHA standards for formaldehyde and benzene require pulmonary function testing when respiratory protection is used at work (see 29 CFR 1910. 1048 and 1910. 1028). Whether spirometry is conducted to comply with an OSHA regulation or as part of another workplace-mandated program, its value is compromised when testing is conducted incorrectly, equipment is inaccurate, or results are misinterpreted. Technically flawed tests too often lead to inaccurate interpretations of worker respiratory health, falsely labeling normal subjects as impaired or impaired subjects as normal. Such flawed test results are not only useless...

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