

Laise, Margaret Holben Ellis, Catharine Hawks, Deborah Long, Julie Page, MJ Davis, and Jean-Louis Bigourdan.

Please go to: www.heritagepreservation.org/C2C to learn more about the series and view the recordings.

THE INSTITUTE OF CONSERVATION (ICON)

Icon Headquarters—Change Of Address

The Institute of Conservation's London office has recently moved to a new location:

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Lafone House
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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS (AAM)

AAM Presents New Membership Structure

With an eye to improving service to its members, AAM has recently re-configured its individual membership structure, adopting more streamlined parameters that mirror the arc of a museum professional's career: student, professional, and retired. This approach was decided after a year of research and analysis, of consultations with sister organizations and experts in the association field.

The dues structure has been streamlined and is more simplified. While some members—particularly students and retirees—will see an increase in dues, these changes were made after careful deliberation and a comprehensive membership survey by one of the best firms in the business. This is the first time AAM has raised its membership dues in 14 years.

The new structure retains but reconfigures the member benefits—steep discounts are given to AAM members on professional development; books from The AAM Press; and registration for the premier learning and networking forum, the [Annual Meeting & MuseumExpo](#), as well as the vast resources available to AAM members through the [Information Center](#).

Health & Safety Committee

Respirator Fit Testing: Why, How, When???

With little known about the long-term health effects associated with nanoparticles and low concentration chemical solvents employed in conservators' practice, it has become more important to use personal protective equipment (PPE), such as a respirator, when engineering controls are not available.

If you are using a respirator in your practice, even just once a year, it is imperative that you have a proper fit in order to afford you the maximum protection that the respirator will provide.

Typical half mask respirators provide a protection factor of ten, which means the concentration inside the mask is ten times less than the concentration outside the mask. If you do not receive a fit test and have a leak in the facepiece, you may not be getting

any respiratory protection.

Humans have a wide variety of physical dimensions and features, and the ability of a respirator to form a satisfactory seal or barrier between the wearer and a contaminated environment may be significantly affected by these variables. "If the respirator-user match (fit) is not checked, an unsatisfactory seal/barrier may unknowingly exist. This could allow excessive leakage of airborne contaminants into the wearer's breathing zone, even though the user is wearing a respirator correctly selected for the application. A fit test is used to assess whether a specific type, model and size of respirator can adequately fit a specific individual." ([TSI Application Note ITI-070](#))

Fit testing consists of donning the respirator, learning how to do the positive and negative field fit checks, and then having a Bitrex solution aerosolized around the respirator. If you can taste the test agent, the test is a failure and you need to try a different size or brand facepiece.

AIC's Health and Safety Committee provides a fit testing workshop at AIC's annual meetings, and this year's meeting in Philadelphia is no exception. Ideally, workshop participants will bring their own respirators to the meeting. If the user does not have one or wants to try something new, the AIC Health and Safety committee will have a variety of models and sizes available. Just because you've been wearing the same respirator for years doesn't mean it's the best one for you! We invite you to take advantage of this service and get fit tested in Philly!

If you can't make it to the annual meeting, check with your employer to see if this is something they offer. If they cannot provide the service, contact an industrial hygienist in your area.

Please join us for our **Respirator Fit Testing Lecture**, Tuesday, May 31, 2011 6:00–7:00 p.m. It is **free**, although registration is required. **Fit Tests** are scheduled by appointment only on Wednesday, June 1, between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. (\$39).

This year, the Health and Safety Committee and the Emergency Committee have also joined forces to co-sponsor a workshop, **From Lab to Field: Choosing and Using Personal Protective Equipment**, on Tuesday, May 31, 2011, from 9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. (\$59)—free for AIC-CERT members. This workshop complements the free Respirator Fit Testing Lecture. Attend this workshop, the fit testing lecture, and fit-test appointment on Wednesday, and pay only \$79!

—*Joanne Klaar Walker, jklaar22@hotmail.com and Dawn Bolstad-Johnson, dbolstaf@dsolutionz.net
AIC Health & Safety Committee*