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NIOSH Docket Office
Robert A. Taft Laboratories
Mail Stop C34
4676 Columbia Parkway
Cincinnati, OH 45226

Dear Sir:

I am writing in support of the new proposed HHS/NIOSH Respiratory Protective Devices standard that includes changes in the current procedures for testing and certifying air purifying respirators used for Tuberculosis control. The proposed certification procedure for "Class C: respirators makes sense. We want to comply with the OSHA requirements and protect our associates. The HEPA filter respirators now required by OSHA are awkward for use during procedures, even impossible to see over during bronchoscopies.

With the new proposal, a broader range of more practical and economical respirators that meet CDC performance criteria for respiratory protection can be produced. The associates can then be more comfortable wearing the respirator, do a better job and the respirator would be less costly to healthcare facilities.

Please consider the urgency of implementing these new testing and certification procedures. The market needs to be opened for manufacturing of the "Class C" respirators.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Nancy Brooks, RNCIC
Infection Control

JUL 26 1994