

84-218  
MAR 18 1988

The Honorable Bob McEwen  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. McEwen:


Thank you for your letter of February 11 on behalf of Mr. Philip Sheridan regarding the proposed regulations governing the certification of respirators.

The current regulations under which the Mine Health and Safety Administration and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health test and certify respirators (30 CFR Part 11) were originally promulgated in 1972. During the last several years, there has been a growing consensus among the respirator manufacturers and user community that these requirements need revision to reflect the technical advances in the field and the increased knowledge regarding environmental factors in the workplace. Some of the steps taken to develop the proposed rule are outlined in the enclosed preamble (52 FR 32402).

We are, of course, anxious to receive comments on both the technical and policy elements of this proposed rule. Toward that end, in October we announced two public hearings (52 FR 37639). The first took place in San Francisco on January 20, 1988, and the second was January 27-28, 1988, in Washington, D.C. Enclosed is a copy of the opening statement from those hearings which clarifies many of the misunderstandings of this regulation. We have also extended the comment period until March 28, 1988 (53 FR 5595).

We look forward to hearing from all parties concerned, and I assure you that all comments received will be placed into the record and will be carefully considered in any final rulemaking decision.

Sincerely yours,

  
James O. Mason, M.D., Dr.P.H.  
Assistant Surgeon General  
Director

Enclosures

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cc:

OD

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NIOSH/Docket Office

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CDC:NIOSH:LSparks

PHS Tracer No. T92251; CDC ID #D41823; NIOSH #3290

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**BOB MC EWEN**  
6TH DISTRICT, OHIO

*AS*



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February 11, 1988

*ASH*

Mr. Ronald Docksai  
Assistant Secretary for  
Legislative Affairs  
Department of Health and  
Human Services  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Mr. Docksai:

The enclosed correspondence was sent to me by Philip Sheridan of Sheridan Safety Supply, Inc. of Dayton, Ohio.

If you could assist me in replying to this inquiry by requesting someone on your staff to investigate the matter and provide to me the appropriate information, I would be most grateful.

Again, Mr. Docksai, thank you for your cooperation in this matter. If I may provide any additional information necessary to you, please do not hesitate to call upon me.

With warmest personal regards,

Sincerely,

BOB McEWEN  
Member of Congress

BM:jl

Enclosure

CDC ID: D 41823  
DATE: MAR 09 1988  
Correspondence Unit, OD  
Ext. 3322

*T92251*  
**TRACER**



5818, HW

January 12, 1988

JAN 19 1988

Robert McEwen, Congressman  
301 N. High Street  
Hillsboro, Ohio 45133

Re: NIOSH Proposal 42CFR84

Dear Mr. McEwen:

The above pending proposal is a classic example of governmental beauracratc meddling in areas where government doesn't belong. The present respiratory approval standards are more than sufficient, and having respiratory equipment used in industry (90% of usage) meet mining standards is ludicrous.

I sincerely request of you, notification to Dr. Otis Bowen, Health and Human Services Secretary, to withdraw above proposal.

Your cooperation and advice will be greatly appreciated.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Philip Sheridan".

Philip Sheridan  
SHERIDAN SAFETY SUPPLY, INC.

PS:dsw