Dragon, Karen E. (CDC/NIOSH/EID)

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Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 7:46 AM
To: NIOSH Docket Office (CDC)
Cc: Chen, Jihong (Jane) (CDC/NIOSH/EID) (CTR)
Subject: 221 - NIOSH Regulatory Agenda for updating 42 CFR Part 84 Comments

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Comments
Docket Number NIOSH-221
We believe that NIOSH should immediately modify 42 CFR Part 84 to allow for separate, stand-alone approval of cylinders. Maintaining the current packaged standard adds excessive user costs and does not demonstrate any added value or safety measures to users.
Currently respirator manufacturers hold NIOSH approvals for nearly every U.S. - made cylinder. That same cylinder – sold directly from a cylinder manufacturer to a fire department rather than through a respirator manufacturer – is deemed non-compliant (non-NIOSH approved), as it cannot carry a respirator manufacturer's part numbers. Typically, if a fire company purchases directly from a cylinder manufacturer rather than through a respirator manufacturer, the respirator manufacturer claims to void the product's warranty.
Common sense should dictate that any DOT approved cylinder, regardless of manufacturer, and weather purchased from the cylinder manufacture or respirator manufacturer, should be allowed for use in any NIOSH approved respirator.
As currently written, 42 CFR Part 84:

- The Respirator manufacturers are issued NIOSH approvals for Cylinders they do not manufacturer.
- Provides NIOSH approvals for "entire SCBA ensembles only", limiting competition for replacement cylinders.
- Unnecessarily drives up the price end users pay for replacement cylinders.
- Is redundant; cylinders are already federally regulated by the USDOT & Transport Canada.
- Provides NO additional liability protection to users.