



July 13, 1994

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

To Whom It May Concern:

Elizabeth General Medical Center is a community hospital which serves a large indigent population, including many people who are HIV positive and at risk for tuberculosis. We are actively implementing and maintaining the standards and regulations concerning tuberculosis control as put forth by the CDC and OSHA.

While very concerned for the safety, health and welfare of both our employees and patients, the Medical Center is also cognizant of the expense involved with meeting the current OSHA regulations. We recognize the need for a change in the certification process for Respiratory Protective Devices and strongly support the proposed testing changes. These changes, enabling the certification of devices specifically designed to meet the needs of the healthcare workers, are vital to assist us in meeting the regulations in a safe, yet cost-effective manner. We also urge that these rule changes be effected in an expeditious manner so as to provide greater availability of devices as soon as possible.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments related to the proposal and hope that we have provided assistance in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Mary McTigue, RN
Associate Director of Nursing
Chair, Elizabeth General Medical Center
Tuberculosis Task Force

MMc/ljp

CC: NJHA Hospital Operations

JUL 18 1994