



Gilmore Memorial Hospital

1105 Earl Frye Boulevard

Amory, Mississippi 38821

July 19, 1994

NIOSH Docket Office
Robert A. Taft Laboratories
Mail Stop C-34
4676 Columbia Parkway
Cincinnati, Ohio 45226

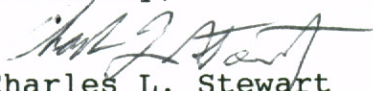
Dear Sir/Madam:

I am aware that the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health has published a proposed rule on Respiratory Protective Devices that includes changes in the current procedures for testing and certifying air purifying respirators used for TB Control. I applaud NIOSH for taking this position which will enable manufacturers to produce a broader range of more practical and economical respirators that will meet the Center For Disease Control performance criteria for respiratory protection devices for TB Protection.

Gilmore Memorial Hospital is a small, rural healthcare provider, which fortunately sees a very small incidence of TB cases. The use of HEPA filter masks for a hospital such as ours, is both cost prohibitive and overkill for our situation. I believe that the proposed standard by NIOSH is an important step in improving the certification process for respiratory devices for protection against TB and other biologic hazards in the healthcare setting. I also believe that there is a strong need for a certification process that addresses the CDC's criteria for respiratory protection against TB that should be acceptable for most healthcare worker needs.

I would like to urge approval of the new testing and certification procedures so that more practical and economic respiratory protection can become available for healthcare workers.

Sincerely,


Charles L. Stewart
President/CEO

CLS/bw

JUL 26 1994