



Valdese General Hospital

Lloyd E. Wallace
President-C.E.O.

July 22, 1994

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

Dear Sirs:

This is to indicate Valdese General Hospital's support for the proposed NIOSH rule on respiratory protective devices, which includes changes in the current procedures for testing and certifying air-purifying respirators used for tuberculosis control. We believe that the new testing and certification procedures will enable device manufacturers to produce a broader range of more practical and economical respirators that meet the performance criteria established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for respiratory-protection devices for TB control. We also feel there is a need for a certification process that addresses the CDC's performance criteria for respiratory protection against TB that should be acceptable for most health care workers' needs. The need for this certification process is also an urgent need and therefore we encourage prompt attention to this matter by NIOSH.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Steven E. Hitt
Vice President, Clinical Services

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JUL 27 1994