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19 November 1987

Mr. John Moran, Director  
 Division of Safety Research  
 National Institute for Occupational  
 Safety and Health  
 944 Chestnut Ridge Road  
 Morgantown, West Virginia 26505

I would like to offer comments on the proposed respirator certification regulation, 42 CFR Part 84. As the industrial hygienist at a facility which uses a number of respiratory devices to ensure employee's health, I must express my concern over the regulation as it was proposed on August 27, 1987 (52 Fed. Reg. 32402).

I find it disconcerting to rely upon model testing protocols that have not yet been identified or proposed. Waiting until the final rulemaking before making protocols available is unfair, if not illegal, to respirator manufacturers, as comments would fall upon deaf ears.

To consider only mines or mining operations as suitable workplace testing sites is offensive to any non-mining facility. Additionally, NIOSH would be placing extraordinary demands upon mining worksites in order to accomplish this workplace testing. If they exist at all, I imagine that mines where tests upon organic vapor or paint spray respirators could be done are going to be difficult to locate. Certainly NIOSH should accommodate general industry by certifying respirators that reflect their needs and have been tested there.

In light of budget constraints, would it not behoove NIOSH to commit its resources to developing a consensus standard for respirator certification for use in all industrial applications? Having used the American National Standards Institute for other standards, why not develop a respirator standard through an accredited ANSI committee, and have that be made available to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration? A certification program could then be established by a non-governmental third-party to ensure compliance with a respiratory protection standard developed through a consensus committee.

I believe that a respiratory standard is needed; however, that proposed by NIOSH does injustice to many parties. I urge NIOSH to recall the proposed rule or to at least, clarify much of the information before the hearing scheduled for December 28, 1987.

Respectfully submitted,



David R. Trott, M.S.

Rec'd att. Sec.  
 11/30/87