

ROANE GENERAL HOSPITAL

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Infection Control Department



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July 11, 1994

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

As a member of my hospital's task force to evaluate compliance with TB guidelines, I am writing to register my support of the proposed rule on respiratory protective devices. I see the proposed rule as an important first step in improving the certification process for respiratory devices for protection against TB in the health care setting. It is very important to have a certification process that will assure that respirators meet the performance criteria outlined by the CDC in the October 1993 *Draft Guidelines for Preventing the Transmission of Tuberculosis in Health Care Facilities* on page 52821.

Such a certification process would allow manufacturers to produce a broader range of certified respirators which provide the necessary level of protection. Speed of implementation is also important. When the new process is implemented the market will be able to provide more practical and **economic** respiratory protection for health care workers against TB.

Sincerely,

Martha Hardman

Martha Hardman, BSMT (ASCP), CIC
Infection Control Director

JUL 18 1994