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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

DEPARTMENT OF EPIDEMIOLOGY  
AND INFECTION CONTROL

UC DAVIS MEDICAL CENTER  
2315 STOCKTON BOULEVARD  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95817-0007

July 15, 1994

NIOSH Docket Office  
Robert A. Taft Laboratories  
Mail Stop C34  
4678 Columbia Pkwy  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45226

Re: Particulate Respirators and Fit-testing Rule Published in  
Federal Register 5/24/94

I am nurse epidemiologist, in infection control practice for 18 years, employed by the University of California Davis, Medical Center. I am encouraging NIOSH to certify the Class C particulate respirator for use in health care facilities for use by employees to prevent exposure to TB patients.

The reclassification of respirators will allow for adequate protection of employees without muffling or decreasing volume for verbal communication with the patient. The HEPA filter respirator interferes with verbal communication with the patient and therefore interferes with patient care practice.

I recommend that fit-testing with Class C respirators be eliminated.

Respectfully,

*Marsha Koopman*

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Manager  
Department of Epidemiology/  
Infection Control

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