DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
National Institute for Occupational
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August 29, 2005

LETTER TO ALL RESPIRATOR MANUFACTURERS

Subject: Revocation of Cylinder Exemption DOT-E 12695

In an August 12, 2005 *Federal Register* notice, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) withdrew its authorization for cylinders manufactured under exemption DOT-E 12695. This exemption covered certain carbon fiber-reinforced cylinders manufactured by Global Composites International, Inc. of Ontario, California. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH or the Institute) specifies in Title 42, *Code of Federal Regulations*, § 84.81(a) that cylinders used in approved respirators must meet DOT requirements.

Accordingly, any respirator incorporating a cylinder manufactured under DOT-E 12695 can no longer maintain NIOSH approval. The Institute requests that each manufacturer:

1. Determine whether DOT-E 12695 exemption cylinders are incorporated in any of your approved respirators,

2. Report your findings to NIOSH, including a list of affected approval numbers (if applicable), and

3. Provide a point of contact for any product recalls.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in this matter. Inquiries may be directed to the Respirator Branch via electronic mail at npptl@cdc.gov or telephone at 412-386-4000.

Sincerely yours,

Heinz Ahlers
Acting Chief
Respirator Branch
National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory