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94-088

St. Luke's Hospital

June 29, 1994

NIOSH DOCKET OFFICE
ROBERT A. TAFT LABORATORIES
MAIL STOP C34
4676 Columbia Parkway
Cincinnati, OH 45226

Dear Sirs:

St. Luke's Hospital recognizes the need for a certification process that addresses the CDC's performance criteria for respiratory protection against TB that should be acceptable for most HCW needs.

However, the HEPA filters currently mandated are extremely costly, uncomfortable for the HCW, often causing facial irritation, and frequently create difficulties communicating to patients, especially patients with hearing impairments.

This hospital, with a prevalence of two active TB patients in five years, applauds efforts of NIOSH to develop a more practical and economic respirator that will meet CDC performance criteria. The urgency of implementing testing and certification procedures to open up the market for more practical and economic respiratory protection for health care workers against TB is essential.

Sincerely yours,

Susan S. Johnson, RN

Susan S. Johnson, RN
Infection Control Nurse

SSJ/dh

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