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NIOSH Docket Office
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July 18, 1994

Subject: HHS/NIOSH Respiratory Protective Devices

I am writing to express support of the proposed Standard which was published in the May 24, 1994 Federal Register on Respiratory Protective Devices. This is an important step in improving the certification process for respiratory devices for protection against TB and other biologic hazards in the health care setting.

There is a need for a certification process that addresses the CDC's performance criteria for respiratory protection against TB that should be acceptable for most health care workers' needs.

Additionally, testing should include efficacy of respirator protection against measles, varicella, rubella, pertussis and other large and small droplet organisms which are seen in the health setting. These pose risks for other susceptible patients, visitors and health care workers, particularly when patients require transportation to other departments, and areas where negative air pressure rooms are not available.

There is an urgency in implementing these new testing and certification procedures in order to open the market for more practical and economic respiratory protection for health care workers against TB and other biologic hazards in the health care setting.

Sincerely,

Beth H. Stover, RN, CIC
Infection Control Nurse

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