Performance Requirements and Test Methods for Head Covers, Footwear Covers, Aprons, and Glove/Protective Clothing Interface Regions

**Objective**

To provide the basis for and recommend appropriate design and performance criteria for head covers, aprons, footwear covers, and to develop a test method for the assessment of strikethrough through glove/protective clothing interface.

**Key Partners**
- ASTM F23, AAMI PB70
- & NFPA 1999
- KC, Medline, 3M, DuPont
- NIOSH EPRO
- Nelson Labs
- NIOSH/DSEFS
- FDA, AORN, ARTA, JHU

**Applicable Standards**
- OSHA 1910.1030
- ASTM F23
- AAMI PB 70
- NFPA 1999
- AATCC Standards

**Stakeholders**
- Healthcare workers, emergency resp.
- Infection control professionals
- Manufacturers
- Standard Development Organizations

**Project Scope**

- Identify the specific hazards and use conditions
- Determine the performance, design and integration properties needed to demonstrate effectiveness
- Select and develop appropriate test methods to measure performance properties
- Establish design and performance criteria for each PPE element that ensure an appropriate level of protection based on the results and user expectations
- Communicate recommended test methods and criteria to the ASTM F23, AAMI PB70, and NFPA 1999 Committee and other industry stakeholders for use in standards

**Milestones FY 17**

Q1: Responded to external review comments, submitted final proposal, completed experimental chamber set-up, completed the JHU robotic arm installation, started data collection
Q2: Continued data collection on interface regions to understand the effect of exposure types/durations, wear durations, and external pressure, presented preliminary findings at IOM and AAMI meetings, started the data collection on head covers
Q3: Draft a paper on parameters that affect the leakage at glove/gown interface, start testing for comparison of leakages for single/double gloving, surgical/isolation procedures, continue data collection on head covers
Q4: Present data at AOHP conference, draft a paper on single/double gloving, continue data collection with gowns/coversalls leakages, complete head cover barrier & physical performance testing

**Outputs**

- Final report with technical data used by SDO’s for the development of a new standard on each PPE element (head cover, apron, footwear cover)
- A new test method for assessing the leakage through glove/protective clothing interface and a new guidance documents for PPE use for HCW
- Manuscripts published in peer-reviewed journals (expected min # of publications:6)
- Presentations at conferences and SDO’s committee meetings (5 so far)
- Science blogs and a patent

**Outcomes**

- CDC can use min requirements for PPE recommendations for infectious diseases such as Ebola
- Consensus standards development organizations (ASTM, ISO, ANSI, AAMI, NFPA), government agencies (FDA, etc.) and professional organizations (AORN, APIC, The Joint Commission) use recommended performance requirements to develop standards and/or guidance documents
- Healthcare workers use project outputs to select and use ensembles
- Manufacturers use the outputs to develop and/or improve current PPE elements and use test results to improve manufacturing processes
- Other researchers utilize the findings to initiate research on more effective healthcare worker personal protective ensembles.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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