

NIOSH / NPPTL Respirator Manufacturers Meeting

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Respirator/Suit Interface

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Respirator/Suit Interface

- Respirator approval requests that offer respiratory protection for a fixed period of time after having been inspected, examined and tested by the institute can be approved per 42 CFR 84
- NIOSH certification for the respiratory protection criteria will be based on the results of the appropriate respirator performance evaluation

Respirator/Suit Interface

- Any change in design that interferes with any critical characteristic of the respirator approval must be submitted to NIOSH as a modification of approval
 - Changes to or addition of accessories that make physical contact to the respirator facepiece or head harness
 - Changes to donning instructions and/or user seal check instructions

Respirator/Suit Interface

- When a suit that interfaces to the facepiece is used, the respirator may be in a non-approved configuration if NIOSH has not evaluated the respiratory performance of the configuration as part of the approval
- Approval holder should contact NIOSH to add the suit as an accessory to the respirator approval

Respirator/Suit Interface

- **NIOSH will determine appropriate tests based on the design of the configuration and will include but will not be limited to:**
 - **Fit testing**
 - **Breathing resistance**
 - **Applicable communication testing**
 - **Any other applicable requirements**
- **NIOSH evaluation will not evaluate the dermal protection offered**

Respirator/Suit Interface

- Presently working on developing a process to coordinate approval actions with NFPA for CBRN APR respirators used with NFPA 1994-2007 compliant Class 3 ensembles
- Presently looking at the effects that protective ensembles have on respiratory protection equipment
- Objective is to create a process to ensure that the integrity of NIOSH respiratory protection is maintained when used with an ensemble

Respirator/Suit Interface

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Questions?