

MEMORANDUM OR UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

BETWEEN THE

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
(NIOSH)**

**NATIONAL PERSONAL PROTECTIVE TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY
(NPPTL)**

and

**ASTM INTERNATIONAL
COMMITTEE F23 ON PERSONAL PROTECTIVE CLOTHING AND
EQUIPMENT**

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this MOU is to facilitate the partnership between NIOSH/NPPTL and the ASTM International's Committee F23 on Personal Protective Clothing and Equipment. The MOU includes cooperation in development of test methods, product standards, practices, guides, classifications, and terminology related to worker and emergency responder protective clothing and equipment. This will be accomplished by NIOSH employee membership and participation on ASTM standards development committees.

This MOU is intended to define the general scope of the intended collaboration between the parties and does not create any rights or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity, against the United States, the signatory federal agencies, and ASTM International.

II. BACKGROUND

NIOSH/NPPTL

In FY2001, NIOSH was appropriated funds to create a new protective technology program in Pittsburgh, PA called the National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory. NPPTL continues to provide world leadership for the prevention and reduction of occupational disease, injury and death for workers relying on personal protective equipment and technologies. This includes millions of the nation's emergency responders, as well as its healthcare & social assistance; construction; manufacturing; mining; agriculture, forestry & fishing; oil & gas, transportation, and warehousing & utilities workers.

The NIOSH program portfolio is organized into Sectors, Health and Safety Cross-Sectors, and Core and Specialty Programs. These include the Public Safety Sector and Personal Protective Technologies (PPTs) Core and Specialty Program which are managed by NPPTL. The Public Safety Sector works to address occupational safety and health challenges faced by the fire service, law enforcement, corrections and emergency medical service workers. The PPTs program exists to prevent work-related illness and injury by advancing the state of knowledge and application of PPTs. This includes product standards, performance evaluations, conformity assessment and verification, technical methods, processes, techniques, tools, and materials that support the development and use of personal protective equipment worn to reduce occupational exposure to hazards.

A core component of the NPPTL mission includes the research, technology and standards development, and evaluation of advanced personal protective equipment such as respirators, clothing, gloves, footwear, hard hats, and eye and hearing protective equipment and devices. An NPPTL emphasis has been on the development of new performance criteria, testing methods and certification standards for respiratory protective devices and ensembles for response to incidents involving chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) hazards.

NPPTL also has membership and an active role on the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) committees developing fire and emergency services protective clothing and equipment performance standards including: hazardous materials, respiratory, structural/proximity fire fighting, emergency medical, special operations and electronic safety equipment. All of these NFPA protective clothing and equipment standards contain ASTM F23 and other committee test method standards.

NPPTL applies state-of-the-art science to meet increasingly complex occupational safety and health challenges. Their strategic research programs help to ensure that the development of new personal protective technologies keep pace with the changing needs and requirements of employers and workers.

ASTM International

ASTM International is one of the largest voluntary standards development organizations in the world and a trusted source for technical standards for materials, products, systems, and services that are known for their high technical quality and market relevancy.

ASTM International, originally known as the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), was formed over a century ago. ASTM consensus standards have made products and services safer, better and more cost-effective. Known

for its best in class practices for standards development and delivery, ASTM is at the forefront in the use of innovative technology to help its members do standards development work, while also increasing the accessibility of ASTM International standards around the world.

The ASTM Committee F23 on Personal Protective Clothing and Equipment scope encompasses development of standard specifications, test methods, practices, guides, terminology, and classifications for protective clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE) designed and constructed to protect the user from potential occupational hazards and/or provide a barrier to prevent the user from being a source of contamination. This Committee coordinates its efforts with other ASTM Committees and outside organizations having mutual interests. These include the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Department for Homeland Security (DHS), National Institute of Standards and Testing (NIST), American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the Interagency Board for Equipment Standardization and Interoperability (IAB).

The F23 Committee is composed of Subcommittees that address specific segments within the general subject area covered by the full Committee.

- F23.20 - Physical
- F23.30 - Chemicals
- F23.40 - Biological
- F23.50 - Certification and PPE Interoperability
- F23.60 - Human Factors
- F23.70 - Radiological Hazards
- F23.80 - Flame and Thermal
- F23.90 - Executive
- F23.91 - Editorial
- F23.95 - Planning
- F23.96 - International Standards Coordination

III. AREAS OF COOPERATIONS AND PARTNERSHIP

NIOSH-NPPTL will:

- Participate as members on ASTM F23 Committee and Subcommittees addressing physical and threat hazard areas aligned with NPPTL areas of interest and responsibility with an emphasis on emergency responders and healthcare workers.
- Provide technical support to the ASTM F23 Committee and Subcommittees in the development of standards that are pertinent to NIOSH - NPPTL programs, missions and requirements. This technical

support may be in the form of providing information, test data, research studies, or other contributions that enable the F23 Committee and the relevant subcommittee to advance proposed standards to adoption.

- Serve as the Chair of the F23.50 Subcommittee and Technical Lead for the proposed Guide for Conformity Assessment of Personal Protective Clothing and Equipment (WK27616).
- Inform and make presentations to ASTM F23 Committee and Subcommittees of its on-going programs related to emergency responder and other worker personal protective equipment including CBRN respirator standards development.
- In cooperation with the ASTM F23 Committee, work toward the use of ASTM F23 standards by other Standards Development Organizations (SDO) or specifying bodies addressing worker and emergency services protective clothing and equipment standards.
- In cooperation with ASTM F23, coordinate standards development and recognition by entities such as the Department for Homeland Security (DHS) and the Interagency Board (IAB).
- Support interactions with other ASTM Committees including Committee E54 on Homeland Security Applications.

ASTM F23 Committee on Protective Clothing and Equipment will:

- Consider requests/suggestions from NPPTL for creating new work items for standards development related to its programs for worker protective clothing selection, use, care, and maintenance.
- Recognize the conformity assessment principles and requirement options consistent with the NIOSH developed National Framework for Personal Protective Equipment – Conformity Assessment Infrastructure.
- Provide NPPTL F23 members access to the ASTM members website so that minutes, ballot items, schedules, etc. can be obtained.
- Determine specific standards development needs for test methods or performance criteria in specifications, where NPPTL may have interests and be able to provide technical support.
- Recommend that Committee F23 representatives participate and make presentations at NPPTL sponsored conferences, seminars and workshops related to performance criteria and standards related to worker and emergency services personal protective equipment.

IV. FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

No financial commitment on the part of either party is required by this MOU.

V. LEGAL AUTHORITY

This Agreement is authorized under Section 20 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (29 U.S.C. § 669).

VI. PUBLICATION

It is understood that a major purpose of the work performed by NIOSH is to obtain information that may be made available by NIOSH to industry and the public through publications or otherwise. NIOSH may submit to ASTM a copy of a proposed report or publication for review and if appropriate, comment prior to publication. NIOSH shall in no case abandon its right to publish information resulting from the expenditures of public funds or the use of public facilities. In the event of any dispute regarding ASTM designation of trade secret information, the dispute will be governed by the regulations of NIOSH at 42 CFR Part 85a.

NIOSH may submit information to ASTM for the development of an ASTM standard(s). It is understood that material submitted to ASTM, together with submissions, input and data from other F23 members to specific ASTM standards will then be copyrighted by ASTM. In no case shall NIOSH abandon its right to publish its original material in the form of its original submission.

It is also understood that ASTM, a Pennsylvania nonprofit and charitable organization, supports its mission through the development and sale of copyrighted documents, including its standards. NIOSH does not intend this MOU, its participation in or cooperation with F23, or its use or designation of ASTM standards to impact ASTM's copyrights or ability to continue its century long mission.

ASTM shall not publicize, or otherwise circulate, promotional material (such as advertisements, sales brochures, press releases, speeches, still and motion pictures, articles, manuscripts, or other publications), which states or implies Governmental, Departmental, NIOSH, or Government employee endorsement of a commercial product, service, or position of ASTM. No release of information relating to this Agreement may state or imply that the Government approves of ASTM's work product, or considers ASTM's work product to be superior to other products or services.

All information submitted for publication or other public releases of information by ASTM regarding this MOU, which specifically mentions NIOSH participation in F23, shall carry the following disclaimer:

The views and conclusions contained in this document are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as representing the opinions or policies of the U.S. Government. Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute their endorsement by the U.S. Government.

ASTM must obtain prior NIOSH approval for any public information releases concerning this Agreement which refer to NIOSH or one of its employees (by name or title). The specific text, layout, photographs, etc., of the proposed release must be submitted with the request for approval.

VII. POINTS OF CONTACTS

Each party shall notify the other party of its officials who will serve as contact points. The present contacts are listed in Attachment A to this MOU. When there is a change in Point of Contact the participating organization will notify all other Points of Contact of the change.

VIII. EFFECTIVE DATE, AMENDMENT AND TERMINATION

The MOU is effective upon the date of the last signature by the parties and shall remain effective for a five-year period from the effective date unless terminated in accordance with the terms set forth herein. The MOU may be modified by mutual written consent of both parties. Either party may terminate this MOU by providing 90 calendar days written notice.

IX. SIGNATORIES

John Howard, MD Date
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Katharine E. Morgan Date
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ATTACHMENT A
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