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Respirator User's Notice

Subject: Meaning of NIOSH Approvals

It has been brought to the attention of NIOSH through phone calls and e-mails from respirator users that some misunderstanding may exist about what NIOSH approval actually means.

NIOSH approval is issued only to a specific and complete respirator assembly after the respirator has been evaluated in the laboratory and found to comply with all of the requirements of Title 42, *Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 84, and after the manufacturer's quality plan is determined to be satisfactory.

A NIOSH approval applies only to the specific respirator that is made up of the components included on the NIOSH approval label. The issuance of an approval number to a respirator manufacturer does not signify that every respirator built within that manufacturer's facility is also NIOSH approved.

A NIOSH approval applies only to the respirator as tested and additions or changes that may affect form fit or function will void the approval

Any respirator manufacturer making false claims such as these may be subject to rescission of all NIOSH approvals held by the manufacturer.

Sincerely yours,

Heinz Ahlers
Acting Chief
Technology Evaluation Branch
National Personal Technology Laboratory

NIOSH/NPPTL/RESPIRATOR BRANCH/AHLERS/HARVEY/03/14/2006
N:RB/Resources/All Manufacturers Letters/Users notice NIOSH Approval.doc
Spelling Verified by: Harvey

Concur:
Director, LB _____

bcc:
RB Reading File
Notebook for "Letter to All Manufacturers"