

NORTHEASTERN HOSPITAL OF PHILADELPHIA

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July 12, 1994

NIOSH Docket Office
Robert A. Taft Laboratories
Mail Stop C34
4676 Columbia Parkway
Cincinnati, Ohio 45226

Ladies & Gentlemen:

I am writing on behalf of Northeastern Hospital of Philadelphia to express my concerns regarding the NIOSH standards for testing and certifying of air purifying respirators used for TB control.

Obviously, as a health care worker and professional I am justly concerned as are all of my colleagues in regards to the upswing in TB that we see in the United States and I am also equally concerned in doing what I can personally and organizationally to protect health care workers and to prevent the spread of Tuberculosis.

I am writing to express my support of the new proposed standard for respiratory protective devices. I believe this proposed standard, which will enable manufacturer's to produce a broader range of certified respirators, will ultimately be a catalyst in assuring that health care workers and organizations both procure and utilize devices appropriate for the task at hand. Obviously there needs to be a certification process that addresses the CDC's performance criteria for respiratory protection and this certification process should be acceptable to address health care worker needs. It is equally important however, that the testing and certification procedures be finalized and implemented as quickly as possible. A rapid implementation of reasonable standards will facilitate the market place in responding to this new demand for practical and economic respiratory protection for health care workers.

Again, I heartily endorse the proposed NIOSH standards. I encourage you to act quickly on them. I thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James F. Casey'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James F. Casey
Vice President/Operations

JFC:kt

CC: Maryann Morgan, R.N., Infection Control

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