

Update on NIOSH Respirator Standards Affecting Healthcare

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Abstract

The main activities of the NPPTL Policy and Standards Development Branch involve the development and promulgation of new respirator approval standards for inclusion in 42 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 84 (42 CFR part 84); as well as management of the National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory's collaborative involvement in the standards development activities of other federal agencies, private sector organizations, and voluntary consensus standards development organizations. This includes facilitating the translation of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health scientific research findings, and staff member expertise into standards activities to improve occupational safety and health of workers. These activities contribute to NIOSH's congressionally-mandated role for certification of respiratory protective devices and prevention of worker injury and illness through the development and use of personal protective equipment.

NIOSH is currently involved with several standards development projects, including updating the performance requirements in 42CFR 84 for Powered Air-Purifying Respirators and the Inward Leakage Performance requirements for Filtering Facepiece Respirators, as well as consensus standard development of the Project Breathe "B95" respirator. This presentation will address the alignment of NIOSH's standards development efforts with consensus standards activities leading to improved respiratory protective equipment for healthcare workers.