

Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc.

APIC - Washington DC Metro Area

Frances E. Pagen President, Metro D. C. APIC 3012 Traymore Lane Bowie, MD 20715 July 5, 1994

NIOSH Docket Office Robert A Taft Laboratories Mail Stop C34 4678 Columbia Parkway Cincinnati, Ohio 45226

Dear NIOSH,

Thank you for the publication for the proposed rule "Respiratory Protective Devices" in the May 24, 1994 <u>Federal Register</u>. This is an important first step to improving the certification process of particulate respirators to meet the CDC recommendations for Health Care Workers exposed to <u>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</u> (MTB).

Our Metro D.C. APIC believes that the 95% Type C filters will effectively protect Health Care Workers in most settings. In outbreak investigation by CDC, the outbreaks were stopped by instituting the 1990 CDC recommendations which included particulate respirator for direct exposure to MTB patients.

Please facilitate the passage of this proposed rule as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Frances E. Pagen, RN, MS, CIC

President, Metro D.C. APIC

cc. Metro D.C. Board Members
APIC Governmental Affairs Committee