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July 13, 1994

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

Subject: NIOSH Certification Testing

The proposed rule on NIOSH certification testing receives our unqualified support. Our experience has shown that the present requirement for HEPA filter masks, in addition to imposing a financial burden on hospitals, often meets with employee resistance. We are concerned that the possibility of poor compliance exists.

We support optimum protection for health care workers, but feel this can best be achieved through the use of sound scientific technique in developing guidelines and equipment.

Sincerely,

Regina Bessette, R.N., CIC

Infection Control Coordinator

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Infection Control Department

RB/DM:xv

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