

July 13, 1994

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

Dear Sir:

On behalf of Saint Agnes Medical Center, we would like to take this opportunity to respond to the May 24, 1994 proposed rule on the NIOSH certification of respirators.

Since NIOSH is to manage the certification of respirators for airborne bacterial contaminants such as Tuberculosis, it is evident that previous standards for respirator certification in the industrial setting need to be revised to meet the needs for protection of employees within healthcare settings. The proposed tri-level approach (Class A-C) to the certification of respirators appears to be a reasonable approach to that challenge.

We are in support of the proposed standard for improving the certification process for respirators.

Thank you.

Carri L. Lukes, RN, CIC, MSN Coordinator, Epidemiology Ted Beshwate Director, Facilities Management

Safety Officer

Ted Beshwate