



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

Dear Sir:

I am writing in regards to the proposed rule on Respiratory Protective Devices. (42 CFR Part 84 Fed Register Vol.59, No 99 pp.26850-26893).

Our hospital has complied with the mandated HEPA respirators. Staff were interviewed and medically evaluated prior to being issued, fit tested, and instructed on how to wear these respirators. This was very costly to the hospital, not to mention the cost of the HEPA respirator itself, as well as being time consuming. The HEPA respirator is very cumbersome and uncomfortable for staff. The issue of storage and maintenance of the HEPA respirator for each employee is also an issue.

Our hospital stocks a Type C filter-95% with a 0.3 micron filter. This mask can easily be worn by employees and/or patients. Since the mask is disposable, storage and maintenance is not an issue, we stock the masks on our units presently. This mask is relatively inexpensive, staff would do not require a medical evaluation, fit testing, or instructions on the use of the Type C filter masks. I also feel that staff will consistently comply with a more comfortable device.

I ask your consideration in rescinding the current policy and to support an amendment that would approve the Type C filter mask-95%.

Thanks you for your consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

*Ann C. Minnicus, RN,*

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