

NIOSH  
Personal Protective  
Technology Program

Board of Scientific Counselors  
Review Summary

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# Review Committee

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## **Recommendation #1 (Issue 1.2): Participate in policy development and standards across all types of PPT**

### **Progress**

**5**

- This team has done a fabulous job managing this task and moving it forward.
- Moving to wider occupations and types of PPE/PPT has been a significant and important achievement.

### **Impact**

**5**

- The process has involved strong stakeholder input.
- Other types of performance measures and metrics, such as policy implementation, could show a wider impact, especially for standards in an area that have significant barriers to passage.
- Self-sustaining certification through fees is a promising approach. Evaluation will be critical to help show this as a generalizable model.

# Recommendation #1 (Issue 1.3): Oversee certification of all PPT including an assessment of certification mechanisms

## Progress

4.5

- The online resources show some progress with more potential in the future.
- The plan to move towards decisions about voluntary vs. audit standards is clear.
- The framework with stakeholder input and engagement is a strong step forward.
- The committee notes that this recommendation is an extremely ambitious and large task.

## Impact

4.5

- Slow progress in reaching full impact may be best approach, as it is important to have a strong conceptual framework and stakeholder engagement and input along the way. There is not a lot of dissemination or products in hand at this point, but the activities poise the program to be in a good position for more impact in the near future.
- With the breadth of this goal, nationally recognized, rather than nationally accepted, standards may be a more attainable goal.



# Recommendation #1 (Issue 1.5): Conduct outreach programs for optimal use and acceptance of PPT by workers

## Progress

5

- The program has many activities in outreach, with a broad audience.
- We recommend that a communication plan or conceptual model be developed.
- Monitoring progress and developing an informed path forward will be important. The use of stakeholder success stories could be helpful.

## Impact

4.5

- The activities are reaching many audiences using multiple mechanisms.
- The program might be able to leverage activities of other NIOSH programs and partners to reach a wider audience.
- The Trusted Source website is a good resource. It would be helpful to know its impact.

The committee had a clarification question: It appears that construction is not actively part of these activities. Perhaps because these messages are getting out through NIOSH other activities?



## Recommendation #4 (Issue 4.1): Define barriers to and facilitators of PPT use

### Progress 5

- The program has developed a good plan.
- The program may have an opportunity to partner with NIOSH divisions and other experts in workplace culture and change.

### Impact 5

- The program is conducting many activities in this area. The report mentions the use of informal feedback, but it would be helpful to have a more formal evaluation, especially to demonstrate impact for the end user.
- The program needs to ensure that knowledge of barriers feeds back into outreach efforts, as it is clear that this knowledge feeds back into design.
- The program has an opportunity to begin evaluating different messaging and educational approaches to learn what works best.



## **Recommendation #4 (Issue 4.2): Develop innovative PPT designs and test methods to improve comfort, fit, and usability**

### **Progress**

**5**

- The program's databases, such as the facial shape database, are very valuable and will likely contribute even more as they grow.
- Innovative designs can be informed by the barriers being identified, such as through the BREATHE working group.

### **Impact**

**5**

- The impact of these activities is strong and poised for even greater future impact.
- The program has potential to collaborate with NIOSH evaluation experts to help keep track of best practices and methods to overcome barriers.

