



1000 N. VILLAGE AVE.  
ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
NEW YORK 11570  
516-255-2344

---

DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

July 19, 1994

NIOSH Docket Office  
Robert A. Taft Laboratories  
Mail Stop C34  
4676 Columbia Parkway  
Cincinnati, OH 45226

Gentlemen:

I am writing in support of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's (NIOSH) proposal that would change the current procedures for testing and certifying air purifying respirators. This rule was published in the Federal Register May 24, 1994. The proposed certification procedures will meet or exceed the criteria recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for protection against *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.

The certification of air purifying respirators may enable respirator users to select from a broader range of equipment and use of such equipment could minimize risk to health care workers without compromising patient care. In addition, the availability of air filtered respirators would offer our patients respiratory protection that is wearable in a health care delivery situation compared to HEPA respirators which are hot and suffocating to wear for extensive periods.

In my position as Director of Maternal Child Health, I feel the introduction of these protective devices would balance employee safety, patient care and containment of costs here at Mercy Medical Center. I salute NIOSH in their efforts to develop advanced respiratory protection which, I am confident, will lead to improving our knowledge of what works best in TB control. The proposed rule has my full support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Contino".

Patricia Contino, RN  
Director of Maternal Child Health

JUL 26 1994