



SWEDISH MEDICAL CENTER | SEATTLE

747 Summit Avenue Seattle, WA 98104-2196
(206) 386-6000

July 20, 1994

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

RE: Proposed Rule on Respiratory Protective Devices

The Department of Epidemiology at Swedish Medical Center in Seattle, Washington wishes to echo the support of our national organization, APIC, on your proposed rule for respiratory protective devices used for TB in health care.

Thank you for proposing a simple, straight forward, three level minimum efficiency performance standard that directly addresses the health care setting. It would appear, based on the exhaustive research completed by Donald Vesley, Ph.D. as presented at the 1994 APIC Educational Conference and International Meeting, that meeting a 95% filter efficiency should be acceptable for most health care worker needs.

We encourage you to immediately develop and implement the testing which may lead to increased availability of acceptable and less expensive respirators.

Sincerely,

Nancy Wiggins, R.N., C.I.C.
Epidemiology Specialist
Department of Epidemiology
Swedish Medical Center

NW/av
\\wp51\ifc\niosh

JUL 26 1994