

Docket

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

JAN 25 1988

84-182

The Honorable Arthur Ravenel, Jr.  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Ravenel:

Thank you for your letter of December 10 regarding the proposed regulations governing the certification of respirators.

The current regulations under which the Mine Health and Safety Administration and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health test and certify respirators (30 CFR Part 11) were originally promulgated in 1972. During the last several years, there has been a growing consensus among the respirator manufacturers and user community that these requirements needed to be revised to reflect the technical advances in the field and the more complex environments of today's workplace. Some of the steps taken to develop the proposed rule are outlined in the enclosed preamble (52 FR 32402).

We are, of course, anxious to receive comments on both the technical and policy elements of this proposed rule. Toward that end, in October we expanded our original comment period and announced two public hearings (52 FR 37639). The first will take place in San Francisco on January 20, 1988, and the second is scheduled for January 27-28, 1988, in Washington, D.C. We look forward to hearing from all parties concerned, and I assure you that all comments received will be placed into the record and will be carefully taken into account before final rulemaking.

Sincerely,

RSI

Otis R. Bowen, M.D.  
Secretary

Enclosure

FILE

OFFICE	SURNAME	DATE	OFFICE	SURNAME	DATE	OFFICE	SURNAME	DATE
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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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cc:

OD

NIOSH

FMO

CDCW

ES/PHS

ASL/OS

CLO/OS

H Official File

CDC Official File (Return to CDC, Atlanta)

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PHS Tracer No. T90<sup>384</sup>~~441~~

CDC ID #D407<sup>29</sup>; NIOSH #3125; Doc 3397B

Prepared by Larry Sparks, CDC, FTS 236-3061, 12/29/87

Contact Karen Lindauer, CDC, FTS 236-3322

FILE

OFFICE	SURNAME	DATE	OFFICE	SURNAME	DATE	OFFICE	SURNAME	DATE
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ARTHUR RAVENEL, JR.  
1ST DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

COMMITTEE ON  
ARMED SERVICES  
SUBCOMMITTEES  
MILITARY INSTALLATIONS  
AND FACILITIES  
MILITARY PERSONNEL  
AND COMPENSATION

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515  
December 10, 1987

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The Honorable Otis R. Bowen, MD  
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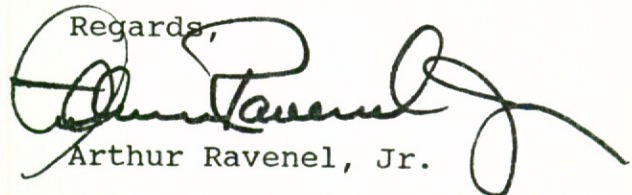
Dear Secretary Bowen,

It has come to my attention that the National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety has proposed to modify the respirator certification process. Why in the world would NIOSH want to further impose restrictions on the American safety equipment industry at great expense to that industry in the face of active opposition from:

Industrial Safety Equipment Association  
3M  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
Freudenberg  
Litton-Clifton Precision  
EG&G of Florida  
TVA  
Knauf Fiber Glass  
National Steel and Shipbuilding Company  
Riverside Cement Company  
Building and Construction Trade Group of the AFL-CIO  
FMC Corporation  
Hubbell, Inc.  
ACKMAT Corporation  
California State Polytechnical University  
Morton Thiokol, Inc.  
CWC Textron, Inc.  
Knapheide Manufacturing Company

Please look into this matter and let me know your thoughts. I thought our Republican administration was committed to less regulations and expensive bureaucratic interference.

Regards,



Arthur Ravenel, Jr.

ARJr/rlp

cc: Senator Strom Thurmond  
Senator Ernest F. Hollings

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