

84-198

FEB 29 1988

The Honorable Tony P. Hall
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Hall:

Thank you for your letter of February 2 on behalf Mr. Philip Sheridan 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 need revision to reflect the technical advances in the field and the increased knowledge regarding environmental factors in the 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 extended our original comment period and announced two public hearings (52 FR 37639). The first took place in San Francisco on January 20, 1988, and the second was January 27-28, 1988, in Washington, D.C. Enclosed is a copy of the opening statement from those hearings which clarifies many of the misunderstandings of this regulation.

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 considered in any final rulemaking decision.

Sincerely yours,

James O. Mason

James O. Mason, M.D., Dr.P.H.
Assistant Surgeon General
Director

Enclosure

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cc:

OD

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NIOSH/W

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CLO/OS

CDC:NIOSH:LSparks

PHS Tracer No. T91737; CDC ID #D41480; NIOSH #3251

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TONY P. HALL
THIRD DISTRICT, OHIO

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

February 2, 1988

ASH

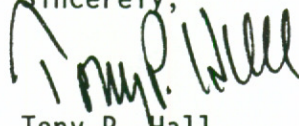
Department of Health
and Human Services
ATTN: Congressional Liaison
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter I received from Philip Sheridan, concerning a proposed regulation, issued by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, which would set higher standards for respiratory equipment. I believe that the enclosure explains Mr. Sheridan's views.

I am not familiar with the regulation in question. However, I would appreciate having the benefit of comments from the appropriate agency on the proposal, so that I can respond to Mr. Sheridan's concerns.

Sincerely,



Tony P. Hall
Member of Congress

TPH:rf

Enclosure

CDC ID: D 41480
DATE: FEB 18, 1988, GD
Correspondence
Ext. 3322

TRACER

T91737



Jan 12 1988

January 12, 1988

Tony Hall, Congressman
200 West 2nd Street
Dayton, Ohio 45402

Re: NIOSH Proposal 42CFR84

Dear Mr. Hall:

The above pending proposal is a classic example of governmental beauracratc meddling in areas where government doesn't belong. The present respiratory approval standards are more than sufficient, and having respiratory equipment used in industry (90% of usage) meet mining standards is ludicrous.

I sincerely request of you, notification to Dr. Otis Bowen, Health and Human Services Secretary, to withdraw above proposal.

Your cooperation and advice will be greatly appreciated.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Philip Sheridan".

Philip Sheridan
SHERIDAN SAFETY SUPPLY, INC.

PS:dsw