

Miller, Diane M. (CDC/NIOSH/EID)

From: Gavin Burdge
Sent: Wednesday, July 09, 2008 1:47 PM
To: NIOSH Docket Office (CDC)
Subject: Docket #139 Comments

DOCKET 139

**Gavin Burdge, CIH, CSP
BMT Designers and Planners, Inc.
2120 Washington Blvd. Ste. 200
Arlington, VA 22204
July 9, 2008**

**COMMENTS TO NIOSH FOR MODIFICATION OF THE NIOSH STATEMENT OF
STANDARD FOR CBRN FULL FACEPIECE AIR PURIFYING RESPIRATORS
DOCKET NUMBER 139**

1. Opinions on current design requirement for the single 40-mm thread canister mechanical connector
No comments
2. Rationale and data to maintain the current design requirement.
No comments
3. Rationale and data to support adding an alternative design for DoD applications for canister mechanical connectors.

Comments:

The Joint Services General Purpose Mask (JSGPM) is the next generation military gas mask that will replace the existing protective masks used by every branch of the U.S. armed forces. The JSGPM is designed to provide effective protection against CBRN agents, while meeting all military respiratory protective requirements. The JSGPM meets all NIOSH agent testing requirements. The JSGPM contains improvements over the current military masks. These improvements include: lower breathing resistance, reduced weight and bulk; and improved protection, comfort, and visibility. The JSGPM was designed to provide equal or greater performance than those required by NIOSH. The JSGPM is equipped with bayonet mounted canisters vice the NIOSH-required 40 mm threaded canisters. This unique design feature improves the operational requirements for the military mask. However, this feature makes NIOSH approval for the JSGPM unattainable. The JSGPM does not meet the current NIOSH CBRN air-purifying (APR) Standard implemented in March 2003 only because of the canister mounting mechanism design.

Department of Defense (DoD) policy requires civilian, contract, and military personnel to

comply with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) respiratory protection program requirements outlined in 29 CFR 1910.134, or Service specific guidance during non-military unique first responder operations. *Executive Order (EO) 12196 (Feb 80)-Occupational and Safety Health Programs for Federal Employees* states that all agencies must comply with the Occupational Safety and Health Act (1970). DoDI 6055.1 (Aug 98) *Safety and Occupational Health Program* directs DoD compliance with OSHA in non-combat situations worldwide regardless of whether the work is performed by military or civilian personnel. DoDI 2000.18 *Installation CBRNE Emergency Response Guidelines* (Dec 2002) requires compliance with all applicable occupational safety and health regulations outside of military unique operations. These requirements include use of NIOSH-approved respirators.

DoD civilian, contract, and military personnel conduct non-military-unique operations related to consequence management, civil support, and anti-terrorism missions. DoD personnel performing these non-military-unique operations may be required to use respiratory protection against CBRN agents and/or toxic industrial chemicals. These non-military unique operations include all elements of installation preparedness and protection outside of combat zones. Installation preparedness and protection includes assigned security forces and others such as first/emergency responders, Fire and Emergency Services, hazardous materials response teams, public works, emergency medical services, medical treatment providers, and all other personnel designated to respond to the scene of a CBRN event on military installations.

Military-unique operations are defined in DoD Instruction (DoDI) 6055.1, *DoD Safety and Occupational Health Program*: "DoD military and civilian operations that are unique to the national defense mission. These operations include combat and operation, testing, and maintenance of military-unique equipment and systems such as military weapons, military-unique aircraft, military-unique ships, submarines, missiles, early warning systems, military space systems, ordnance, and tactical vehicles. They also include operations such as peacekeeping missions; field maneuvers; combat training; naval operations; military flight and missile operations; military-unique Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation activities; and actions required under national defense contingency conditions." A response to a CBRN incident may require that military units normally engaged in military-unique operations who are directed to assist the civilian community would be required to unnecessarily carry two masks – the NIOSH-approved mask and the JSGPM .

An undesirable situation is created during consequence management, which limits the on-scene incident commander who exercises the option to protect security personnel with the equally effective military mask. Also, military personnel arriving on the scene will be equipped with the military mask. These military personnel arriving on the scene would have masks whose canisters are not interchangeable with civilian first responders.

Amending the NIOSH Statement of Standard for a Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Full Face Air-Purifying Respirator will:

1. Improve readiness by enabling one OSHA compliant respirator, which could be legally worn by military, DoD civilian, and contractor personnel during consequence management operations where an air-purifying respirator is required.
2. Ensure comprehensive regulatory compliance (e.g., OSHA compliant equipment, fit testing, understanding of limitations, training, informed consent, etc.).

4. Identification of alternative approaches to implement the alternative design concept for the canister mechanical connector.

No Comments

5. Other Comments on the subject.

No additional comments.