

Similarities between the 42 CFR Part84 and the proposed ISO Respirator Standards

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Abstract

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) certifies conformance of respirators in the United States to requirements codified in federal regulations. The International Organization for Standardization (ISO), with participation from NIOSH, has undertaken the development of draft respirator standards which could be incorporated into the NIOSH requirements through future updates. A number of test parameters are very similar when compared between ISO and 42 CFR 84. A difference that offers an exciting opportunity could result in the ISO standards enabling respirator selection logic more appropriate to the expected exposure by taking advantage of achievable levels of protection. This presentation will discuss some of the similarities and some of the differences between respirator selection relative to current 42 CFR 84 requirements and ISO requirements. A discussion about some of the NIOSH performance requirements and the draft ISO requirements with some initial steps being made in the United States toward assessing the feasibility of ISO standards implementation in the United States.