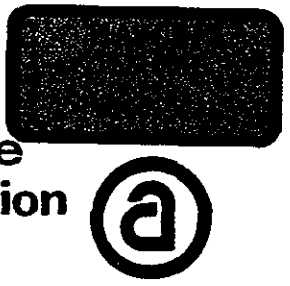
NMC

Issue Bulletin Service
the Aluminum Association
Incorporated

818 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20006
(202) 862-5100



Bulletin

Series No.: OSH A-30
Date: March 23, 1983

9a

OSHA BULLETIN

ISSUE: Occupational Safety and Health

SUBJECT: OSHA Review of Policy on Engineering Controls vs. Respirators For Air Contaminants

SUMMARY ANALYSIS: It has been OSHA's policy to require that employee exposure to toxic materials and harmful physical agents above permissible limits be controlled through the use of feasible engineering, work practices, and administrative controls; respirators have been permitted only as an alternative when other methods are not adequate, feasible, or have not yet been installed.

In the February 22, 1983 Federal Register, OSHA gave notice that it was reexamining this policy, and asked for comments on its policy of favoring engineering controls over personal protective equipment in protecting workers from air contaminants. The Agency is considering possible revisions to 29 CFR 1910.1000(e) (Air Contaminants) and 29 CFR 1910.134(a)(1) (Respiratory Protection).

The Agency has posed a detailed set of questions including information specific to plant operations. The basic issue is the comparison of engineering controls versus personal respirators.

COMMENTS: Comments should be made to OSHA by June 22, 1983. They should be sent to OSHA Docket Officer, Docket H-160, Room S-6212, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210.

ASSOCIATION POSITION: The Association's Health Committee is reviewing the OSHA notice and will consider a position.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Contact Sey Epstein (202) 862-5135 or Jack Goldman (202) 862-5129.

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE
RECEIVED
MAR 28 1983
HMC
REB
JTM
Tox

TX TINER
RMC0002638