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TO: Safety Directors

FROM: T. G. Grumbles
DATE: January 6, 1987

Interoffice
Communication

SUBJ: "BEARDED" OSHA INSPECTORS

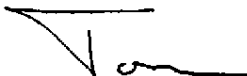
VISTA

Jerry Hafford, Respiratory Protection Services Inc., recently called to relate the following information.

A ship channel plant recently permitted an OSHA inspector with a beard to enter the process area. This was against the plant's facial hair policy; however, the plant provided the inspector with an ELSA unit to be used for evacuation in the event of an emergency. A release occurred and the inspector almost had to use the unit. He later told plant personnel it was a good thing he didn't have to because he was under medical restriction for respirator use and probably would have "had a problem". The plant had not verified his fitness to wear respirators.

Subsequent to the inspection the plant learned OSHA has a beard policy and only inspectors with medical restrictions of some kind are allowed to wear facial hair. All inspectors must carry respirator/medical certification cards.

Moral: If a bearded inspector shows up ask for his card
and/or refuse him entry based on beard policy
restrictions.


Thomas G. Grumbles

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cc WLM

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