



REYNOLDS ALUMINUM

Reynolds Metals Company • Richmond, Virginia 23261

April 9, 1986

NIOSH

Attn: Ms. Nancy Bollinger
Chief, Certification Branch
944 Chestnut Ridge Road
Morgantown, West Virginia 26505-288

Gentlemen:

REYNOLDS METALS COMPANY is a rather large user of disposable respirators. In the past, we initiated a comprehensive testing program of all respirators utilized in the protection against total particulates and coal tar pitch volatile materials. We collected a substantial amount of information on a number of 3M respirators and American Optical respirators. Now, however, the market is flooded with similar type equipment, such as the Gerson 1710 and the Moldex 2200 dust and mist respirator. We have, also, recently reviewed information from the 3M Company regarding the protection efficiencies of a number of disposable respirators.

Given the number of respirators of this type on the market today, it is impossible for us to test them as we have in the past. Therefore, we would like to obtain the technical information supporting the protection efficiencies of the Gerson 1710 and the Moldex 2200 respirators. While there appears to be a substantial cost saving in using these two devices, we would not consider changing the type of respiratory protection now offered to our employees, unless we could be assured of equal protection characteristics.

Thank you very much for your assistance.

Yours very truly,

Homer M. Cole
Director
Industrial Hygiene

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