



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

October 15, 1984

Centers for Disease Control
National Institute for Occupational
Safety and Health - ALOSH
944 Chestnut Ridge Road
Morgantown, WV 26505-2888

SPECIAL REPORT TO RESPIRATOR USERS
ON NIOSH RESPIRATOR PROBLEM INVESTIGATION

Between July 1, 1982, and August 1, 1984, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) investigated 72 reports of problems involving defects or difficulties with Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA)/NIOSH-approved respirators. These reports were received from the following sources:

Source of Report	Number of Reports
NIOSH audit	26
Fire service	21
Other government agencies	13
Industrial	9
Labor union	2
Respirator manufacturer	1

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

MON-2446

Upon receipt of each report, NIOSH categorized it according to the following severity classification system:

- A. Report of a defect or difficulty which has caused or may cause immediate death, injury, or illness to the respirator user, such as sudden loss of breathing gas from a self-contained breathing apparatus before or during use;
- B. Report of a defect or difficulty which may cause future illness to the respirator user, such as lowered protection from a dust, fume, and mist respirator;
- C. Report of a defect or difficulty which will probably result in rejection of or refusal to use a respirator, such as high breathing resistance; and
- D. Report of a defect or difficulty which has no immediate or future relationship to the health and safety of the respirator user, such as an unapproved change that does not affect the performance of the respirator.

The 72 reports, received between July 1, 1982, and August 1, 1984, were classified for severity as follows:

Severity Classification	Number of Reports
A	25
B	6
C	33
D	7

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Between July 1, 1982, and August 1, 1984, NIOSH issued 3 Respirator User Warnings and 10 Respirator User Notices, using a list of approximately 8500 Industrial Health and Safety organizations and personnel. NIOSH has been studying the effectiveness of this procedure for informing respirator users of the existence of problems involving defects or difficulties with MSHA/NIOSH-approved respirators.

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It appears that with the valuable assistance of dedicated fire service personnel and organizations, NIOSH warnings and notices relating to fire fighting respirators rapidly reach a high percentage of persons who need that information. However, NIOSH warnings and notices relating to industrial respirators may be less effective. NIOSH will investigate ways to improve this situation during the forthcoming year.

After investigating a report of a problem, NIOSH is able to more completely define it. The reports received between July 1, 1982, and August 1, 1984, are defined as follows:

<u>Defect or Difficulty</u>	<u>Number of Reports</u>
Immediately dangerous to life or health	
Mechanical defect	15
Sudden loss of breathing gas	8
Temperature extreme	2
Respirator leakage	1
Not immediately dangerous to life or health	
Mechanical defect	17
Service life	7
Sorbent/filter dusting	5
Respirator leakage	4
Resistance	3
Chemical effects	2
Gradual loss of breathing gas	2
Packaging	2
Unapproved assembly	2
Facepiece irritation	1
Temperature extreme	1

NIOSH is continuing its program of working with respirator manufacturers and respirator users in investigation of reports of problems with MSHA/NIOSH-approved respirators. As indicated in the Guidelines for Reporting Respirator Problems, issued July 21, 1983, NIOSH encourages users who find problems with MSHA/NIOSH-approved respirators to report them directly to the respirator manufacturer, with a copy of the report to NIOSH. NIOSH will only take an active part in resolution of the defect or difficulty if the user and manufacturer are not successful, the situation is immediately dangerous to life or health, or it is one which may appear in other respirators currently in use.

The procedure of direct communication between the reporter and the manufacturer appears to be working satisfactorily. However, some reporters indicate difficulty in reaching a person at the manufacturer's facility with the authority and/or interest in resolving the problem. To assist future reporters, NIOSH has prepared the attached list of representatives of respirator manufacturers, who have been authorized to handle such reports in a timely manner.


John B. Moran

Attachment

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NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PERSONS WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR
INVESTIGATION PROBLEMS WITH MSHA/NIOSH-APPROVED RESPIRATORS

Respirator Manufacturers

Mr. William Washburn
AGA Corporation
550 County Avenue
Secaucus, NJ 07094

Mr. Mark Theno
Air-Tek Company
6472 Flying Cloud Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Mr. Joseph Zdrok
American Optical Corp.
14 Mechanic Street
Southbridge, MA 01550

Mr. Ronald J. DeMeo
Clifton Precision
P.O. Box 303
Frederick, Delaware 19946

Mr. Raymond O. Day
Mr. Robert Meyer
Binks Manufacturing Co.
9201 W. Belmont Ave.
Franklin Park, IL 60131.

Mr. Steve Boro
E. D. Bullard Company
2680 Bridgeway
Sausalito, CA 94965

Mr. John B. McCreadie
Cesco Safety Prod./Parmalee Ind.
U. S. Safety Service Co.
P.O. Box 1237
Kansas City, MO 64141.

Mr. Martin Ziegler
Clifton Precision
Division of Litton Ind.
P. O. Box 303, Rt. 113
Frederica, DE 19946.

Mr. W. F. Moon
Cover, H.S. Co.
107 East Alexander St.
Buchanan, MI 49107.

Mr. S. B. Shearer
CSE Corporation
600 Seco Road
Monroeville, PA 15146

Mr. Carl M. Fink
Defense Apparel
285 Murphy Road
Hartford, CT 06114

Dr. Helmut Sieber
Draegerwerk AG Lubeck
Postfach 1339
2400 Lubeck 1
Federal Republic of Germany

Mr. Willie Yung
Louis M. Gerson Company
15 Sproat Street
Middleboro, MA 02346

Mr. Joel Kaufman
Glendale Opeical Co.
130 Crossways Park Drive
Woodbury, NY 11797

Mr. Stephen H. Bates
Globe Safety Equipment, Inc.
PO Box 7248
Dayton, OH 45407

Ing. G. Cappa
Industrie Pirelli SPA
Azienda Articoli Vari Roma
Via di Torresoaccata
140-0016 Roma, Italy

Mr. Donald M. Dawson
International Safety Instruments, Inc.
PO Box 846
Lawrenceville, GA 30246

Mr. Bengt Sjard
Interspiro AB
S-181 81 LIDINGO
Sweden

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Mr. Ron Therrin
Lancs Industries
12704 N. E. 124th Street
Kirkland, Washington 98033-4091

Mr. Carlos E. Lean
Masprot, No. 5558
San Miguel
Santiago, Chile

Mr. T. D. McConnell
Mine Safety Appliances Company
600 Penn Center Boulevard
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15235

Mr. Donald P. Wilmes
3M Company 3M Center
Building 230-B-06
St. Paul, MN 55144

Mr. Albert Mintz
Moldex/Metrics, Incorporated
4671 Leahy Street
Culver City, California 90230

Mr. Les Boord
Mr. Wes Kenneweg
National Draeger, Inc.
P. O. Box 120
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15230

Mr. Stephen C. Smith
National Mine Service Company
600 N. Bell Ave., Bldg. 2, Ste 110
Carnegie, Pennsylvania 15106

Mr. Ken Vaughn
Neoterik Health Tech., Inc.
P.O. Box 78
Mt. Airy, MD 21771

Ms. C. E. Chappron
North Safety Equipment
2000 Plainfield Pike
Cranston, RI 02920

Mr. Earl B. Jacobson
Nuclear Power Outfitters
PO Box 84
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Mr. Pat Droppleman
Ocenco, Incorporated
400 Academy Drive
Northbrook, IL 60062

F. Levi-Senlgaglia
Pirelli Industrial Products
6 Ram Ridge Road
Spring Valley, NY 10977

Mr. George Lamoy
Portable Air Supply Systems Corp.
3500 Carnegie Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44115

Mr. M. D. Shroff
Pradeep Raja Bahadur Motilal Mansion
1st Floor 11/43 Tamarind Street
Fort Bombay - 400023, INDIA

Mr. Jay Parker
Pulmosan Safety Equipment Corp.
30-48 Linden Place
Flushing, NY 11354

Mr. Donald Burd
Racal Airstream, Inc.
7309A Grove Road
Frederick, MD 21701

Mr. Ben Huey
Rexnord Safety Products
45 Great Valley Parkway
Malvern, PA 19355

Mr. Walter Anderson
Robertshaw Controls Co.
333 North Euclid Way
Anaheim, CA 92803

Mr. Gerald S. Gilbert
Romiro Technology
3500 Carnegie Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44115

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Mr. Ian V. Maxwell
Sabre Safety, Ltd.
Ash Road, Aldershot
Hampshire, GU12 4DD
England

Mr. Ross Kusian
Safety and Supply Co.
5510 East Marginal Way South
Seattle, WA 98134

Mr. Robert Brennan
Scott Aviation
225 Erie Street
Lancaster, N.Y. 14086

Mr. Simon Kugler
Siebe Gorman, Ltd.
Avondale Way, Cwmbran, Gwent, Wales
NP4 1 YR, Great Britain

Mr. Larry Schaefer
Standard Safety Equipment Corp.
P.O. Box 188
Palatine, IL 60067

Ms Antonette Bonfiglio
(Air-purifying respirators)
U.S.D. Corp.
3323 West Warner Ave.
Santa Ana, CA 92702

Mr. Brian Miller
(Atmosphere-supplying respirators)
U.S.D. Corp.
3323 West Warner Ave.
Santa Ana, CA 92702

Mr. Robert Bischler
Willson Safety Products
PO Box 622
Reading, PA 19603

Mine Safety and Health Administration

Mr. Kenneth P. Klouse
MSHA Approval and Certification Center
PO Box 251, Route 1
Triadelphia, WV 26059

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