REDUCTION AND CONTROL OF RESPIRATORY HAZARDS

A primary objective of respiratory protection is to reduce or eliminate hazards at their source by means of sound engineering control methods.

THE CONTROL of air contaminants in the industrial environment is both a moral and a legal obligation—particularly in view of our present emphasis on health, safety, and ecology. The *Occupational Safety and Health Act* of 1970 is specific relative to the control of the in-plant environment. The following is quoted from the May 29, 1971 issue of the *Federal Register*, which details the present standards applicable to the act:

Subpart G—Occupational Health and Environmental Control

1910.93 Air contaminants. (Gases, vapors, fumes, dust, and mists.)

a) Exposures by inhalation, ingestion, skin absorption, or contact to any material or substance 1) at a concentration above those specified in the *Threshold Limit Values of Airborne Contaminants for 1970* of the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, listed in Table G-1, except for the American National Standards listed in Table G-2 of this section and except for values of mineral dusts listed in Table G-3 of this section, and 2) concentrations above those specified in Table G-1, G-2, and G-3 of this section, shall be avoided, or protective equipment shall be provided and used.

b) To achieve compliance with paragraph (a) of this section, feasible administrative or engineering controls must first be determined and implemented in all cases. In cases where protective equipment, or protective equipment in addition to other measures, is used as the method of protecting the employee, such protection must be approved for each specific application by a competent industrial hygienist or other technically qualified source.

Establishing an Effective Respiratory Protection Program

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