

Respirator Committee
Industrial Hygiene Committee

April 23, 1979

To: Respirator Coordinators
From: D. T. Lefferts, Building 1094

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MEDICAL DIVISION

DISPOSABLE RESPIRATORS

Since returning to Chambers Works, I have reviewed many respirator approval requests. Many have been written, but a few have been handled by telephone. More often than not, the request centered on the 3M No. 8710 disposable respirator. I believe some general clarification is in order.

The 3M Company markets several NIOSH-approved disposable respirators as well as several respirators not having NIOSH-approval. The unapproved (not disapproved) respirators are for use for the comfort of the wearer.

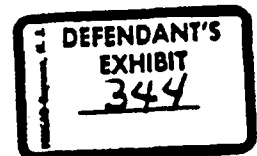
These unapproved respirators are for such applications as:

- Protection from annoyance from grass seeds, pollen, soap powder, blood, bacteria, hair, wood slivers, etc.
- Protection from annoyance from foul vapors and gases encountered by morticians, stockyard workers, sewer and sanitation workers, etc.
- Protection from annoyance from "nuisance" or "inert" particulates at less than exposure limit concentrations.

The NIOSH-approved No. 8710 respirator is approved for fibrous particulates and for particulates which cause pneumoconiosis and for nuisance particulates. Some materials which are in these approval categories are:

- Silica
- Silicates (Talc, Kaolin, Bentonite, Diatomite, Tripoli, Fuller's Earth, Mica, Cement)
- Coal
- Graphite
- Asbestos
- Sucrose

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