

Current Issues in the Assessment of Respiratory Protective Devices: Non-Traditional Workers and Public Use

A Virtual Workshop

August 4–5, 2020

Sponsored by the National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory, National Institute for
Occupational Safety and Health

Planning Committee on Current Issues in the Assessment of Respiratory Protective Devices

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Workshop Objectives (Part 1)

- Review lessons learned over the last 100 years of respiratory protection and how these can be applied to the assessment of respiratory protective devices moving forward.
- Explore current respiratory protection needs and risks for non-traditional worker groups and the public.
- Explore research gaps in understanding respiratory protection needs for non-traditional workers as well as opportunities to enhance communication of respiratory protection guidance to users and other stakeholders.

Workshop Objectives (Part 2)

- Review current practices of the NIOSH respirator approval program and conformity assessment processes for respirators and identify opportunities and gaps.
- Explore conformity assessment approaches used in other countries, by third-party organizations, and in private industry and discuss the risks and benefits of these approaches in the context of use by non-traditional workers and the public.
- Examine whether the respiratory protection needs of underserved groups, such as non-traditional workers and the public, are served by current standards and assessment programs and identify opportunities and research gaps.

Committee Approach

- Non-traditional worker groups:
 - *Workers who function outside of a traditional respiratory protection program. This spans a wide range of professions and workplaces.*
- Inclusion of COVID-19
 - *COVID-19 will be discussed, but is not the primary focus of this workshop*
- Discussion of respirators and other types of face coverings:
 - *The workshop will focus primarily on respirators, although other barrier masks will be discussed.*

Workshop Logistics

- Public 2-day workshop
- Attendee Q&A (Submit via the Q&A box at the bottom of your screen)
- Speakers and committee biosketches on the workshop webpage
- Video recordings will be posted after the workshop

Highlights from Day 1

- Respiratory risks and user needs vary widely
- These user needs form the basis of standards and device assessment
- Conformity assessment is just one part of respiratory protection
- Employer awareness of risk and responsibility is fundamental and user knowledge and training on device use is key