

National Academy of Medicine Workshop Current Issues in the Assessment of Respiratory Protective Devices: Non-traditional workers and Public Use

**Session 4B: Assessment Pathways for Respiratory Protective Devices and
Other Options for the Public**

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August 5, 2020

Session Objectives

- Review the current NIOSH Respiratory Approval Program and conformity assessment process for the occupational use of respirators.
- Explore how existing conformity assessment processes and standards align with the health and safety requirements of non-traditional user groups and how these processes function to deliver technologies to the end user while balancing speed of delivery with safety.
- Discuss what opportunities exist to develop or support conformity assessment processes for respiratory protective devices and control strategies, such as cloth face coverings, that are responsive to the specific requirements of these user groups.
- Discuss conformity assessment models used in other countries, by third-party organizations, and in private industry for the occupational and non-occupational use of respirators and barrier masks.

ASTM Work Item 7347I - Standard Specification for Barrier Face Coverings

- *This product is NOT a respirator or a surgical mask, and is NOT intended to be a replacement for those commodities*
- Scope of the standard:
 - First – Source Control
 - Second – Provides some degree of inhalation protection
- Committee made up of 45 + representatives from industry, academia and government

ASTM Work Item 7347 I - Standard Specification for Barrier Face Coverings – Performance

- Three Main Performance Elements
 - Has Filtration Capability
 - It “fits”
 - You can breathe while wearing it
- If the covering is reusable, the product will be tested after laundering

ASTM Work Item 7347I - Standard Specification for Barrier Face Coverings – Observations

- Translational Gaps -the translation of process and procedure from well defined occupational products is not easy
 - Identification of Required “Protection”
 - › Occupational approaches and applicability to use outside of occupational settings
 - How are performance requirements defined
 - Research Gaps
 - Oversight
 - Conformity assessment
- How can performance be presented to potential users in a way they can make informed decisions – do no harm

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