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Comparison of Sampling Probes for N95 Filtering Facepiece Respirators

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Studies have indicated that probe bias exists when measuring in mask concentrations of contaminants or test agents for elastomeric facepieces. Deep probes tend to measure higher concentrations or indicate lower fit factors than flush probes. Unpublished data has suggested that this bias exists in filtering facepieces as well. This work compares inward leakage results for filtering facepiece respirators having various leak paths using a flush probe with a deep probe and a flush probe with a disk probe. The results indicated that the probe bias on filtering facepieces is not significant.