

[ABS03]

Will the ISO Protection Level Classification System be a Barrier or Conduit to Adoption?

Geoff Betsinger

3M, Occupational Health and Environmental Safety

The proposed ISO respirator classification scheme introduces the concept of Protection Levels (PL) for respirator selection and use. ISO PLs, while intended to represent the protection a respirator may provide in the workplace, are based solely on laboratory testing and are independent of the type or style of respirator. Different styles of respirators may have the same PL (e.g. PAPR and Half Mask with same TIL result will be classified with the same PL). Will this new concept may be a deterrent to adoption of the ISO Global Respiratory Protection Standards or will Safety and Health professionals embrace this new approach?