

A Summary of OSHA's Assigned Protection Factor Proposal

William Newcomb

NIOSH, National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory
626 Cochran's Mill Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15236, USA
Tel; +1-412-386-4034 Fax; +1-412-386-6716 e-mail; BYF6@CDC.GOV

ABSTRACT

In the United States, OSHA has been enforcing selection and use of respirators based on Assigned Protection Factors (APF) from a Respirator Decision Logic published by NIOSH in 1978. Since 1978 the ANSI Standard for respiratory protection, which has different APFs, has been revised and another proposed. In addition, OSHA has, in substance specific standards, used other APFs, some of which agree with ANSI and some of which do not.

On June 6th of 2003, OSHA published a Proposed Rule to add an APF table to its respiratory regulation for the purpose of establishing Maximum Use Concentrations for all types of respirators and consolidating some of the substance specific standards which have different selection and use criteria. This presentation reviews present and proposed OSHA APFs.