

POF037: General Platform presentation

**National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health Framework
for Enhancing Powered Air-Purifying Respirator Performance
Approval Requirements to Better Meet the Needs of Users**

Colleen Miller

Presenter's affiliation:

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory
626 Cochran's Mill Road, Pittsburgh, PA. USA. ZIP Code: 15236
Email: Csmiller1@cdc.gov**

Abstract

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the Department of Health and Human Services administers regulations for the approval of respiratory protective devices (RPD) in accordance with 42 CFR Part 84. The National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory (NPPTL), a division of NIOSH, tests and certifies powered air-purifying respirators (PAPR) and other RPDs and is developing a framework for enhancing PAPR approval provisions. In 2014, NPPTL facilitated a workshop, "The Use and Effectiveness of Powered Air Purifying Respirators in Health Care", with the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies. Since then, NIOSH/NPPTL has been assessing the improved PAPR performance concepts presented and discussed at the workshop. Moreover, NIOSH/NPPTL has embarked on a project that is examining the current NIOSH PAPR performance criteria, discussing PAPR performance requirements with subject matter experts and reviewing national and international PAPR performance standards. The framework concept and progress in moving forward with alternate test methods and performance criteria for the evaluation of a new class of PAPR will be discussed. PAPRs play an integral part in protecting workers and their performance and design must not only provide appropriate protections, they should more closely align with their intended use.