

POF026: General platform presentation

CURRENT ACTIVITIES IN RESPIRATORY PROTECTION STANDARDS IN CANADA

Simon Smith

Presenter's affiliation:

3M Canada Company

1360 California Avenue, P.O. Box 665, Brockville, Ontario, Canada

ZIP Code: K6V 5V8

Email: sjsmith@mmm.com

Abstract

The Canadian Standards Association (CSA) undertakes creation and maintenance of a number of standards relevant to occupational health and safety in Canada. These include three with direct relation to respiratory protection.

The regulation of occupational health and safety in Canada is highly devolved with separate legislation in each of ten provinces, three territories, and for Federal government and military employees. Each administration regulates workplace health safety programmes, but often cite the Canadian Standards as a best practice.

CSA provides a standard for "Selection, Use and Care" of Respirators first issued in 1982, last updated in 2011. This includes requirements for respiratory protection programmes, training and periodic fit testing as well as respirator selection. The 2011 edition was the first standard in the world with a general method for selecting respirators for protection from bioaerosols. It uses control banding to recommend appropriate assigned protection factors based on semi-quantitative input information. Current update work includes a user survey and a comprehensive literature analysis to build an evidence base to improve the selection method. Underlying the selection guidance are respirator performance requirements of the US National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

CSA issued a standard for "Personal Protective Equipment for CBRN Responders" in 2011 which included comprehensive guidance on protective clothing and respirator selection for use by emergency response personnel, as well as requirements for practical performance testing fit requirements and filter capability which exceed those of regular industrial and other CBRN respirator standards. The process of updating this standard will commence soon.

A new world-first standard for personal protective equipment for agent intervening in clandestine drug laboratories is in preparation, which will include an "all risks" approach to respirator selection. This is being developed in collaboration with law enforcement and fire services and will be published in 2017.