

New Resource: ISEA Publishes Guide to Aid Respirator Selection Under 42 CFR 84

Arlington, VA, October 28, 1996—The Industrial Safety Equipment Association (ISEA), the national trade association for manufacturers of safety and personal protective equipment, recently released its *Use and Selection Guide For Non-Powered Air Purifying Particulate Respirators*. The *Guide* is a collaborative effort by the 16 ISEA respirator manufacturers—which account for 88 percent of all NIOSH (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health)-certified respirators—to assist safety professionals in complying with new respiratory protection requirements.

On July 10, 1995, NIOSH issued a rule—42 Code of Federal Regulations Part 84 (42 CFR 84)—which established new testing and performance requirements for all non-powered, air purifying **particulate** respirators and filters. The new requirements classify filters by their ability to resist degradation in the presence or absence of oil, rather than by hazard type such as dust, mist or fumes. NIOSH provided a three-year transition period from respirators certified under the current rule (30 CFR 11) and allows for them to be sold until July 10, 1998. After this date, only 42 CFR 84 respirators may be sold.

Safety professionals and industrial hygienists responsible for managing workplace respiratory protection programs should begin planning to make the switch to 42 CFR 84 respirators by learning the

requirements of the new rule and becoming familiar with the respirators certified under it. To make this task easier, the ISEA has published a concise 20-page *Use and Selection Guide* to assist in choosing the proper 42 CFR 84 respirator. The *Guide* describes the new classifications of respirators, provides a decision logic for selecting them, and contains a table comparing respirators in the existing standard to the new standard based on the particulate source. It also contains definitions of common terms in the new rule and a table comparing 30 CFR 11 and 42 CFR 84 respirators as applicable to various OSHA substance-specific standards. This *Guide* is the only source available showing which new respirator to use as compared to what is currently used to protect against a particular hazard.

Copies of the *Guide* are available for \$5.00 from ISEA headquarters at 1901 N. Moore Street, Suite 808, Arlington, VA 22209. Orders of 100 or more are \$4.00 per copy. For additional information, contact the ISEA at (703) 525-1695.

The Industrial Safety Equipment Association is the national association for manufacturers of safety and personal protective equipment. Since 1933, the ISEA has supported its members in manufacturing and marketing the highest quality products dedicated to protecting the safety and health of individuals who may be exposed to hazardous and potentially harmful environments.

