

Update on the Status of ANSI Standards for Respiratory Protection

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ANSI Z88

As soon as the last negative comment on the proposed revision had been addressed or incorporated into the revision by Tom Nelson and his **subcommittee**, and the revision had been submitted to ANSI headquarters, Darell Bevis filed an appeal with me as the chairperson of the Z88 committee. This stopped further processing of the revision by ANSI on June 21, 1991. Bevis's first point of appeal alleged that several times the subcommittee chairpersons had altered the draft Z88.2 from what the subcommittee had agreed upon in the prior meeting. He stated that he would present several instances upon request. I asked Bevis, both over the phone and in writing several times, to present details of the several instances he had cited. After two months had passed, he furnished no information to me, so I set a deadline of August 30, 1991 for him to provide the detailed evidence. He provided no evidence by that date. On September 9, 1991, I informed Bevis that, "I am therefore declaring that your points of appeal appear to be without merit and that you have not pursued your appeal diligently." I then asked ANSI to proceed with the processing of the proposed revision.

I anticipate that it will take ANSI a couple of months to finish the processing and the Board of Standards Review, BSR, to approve the revision. Bevis has been **informed** that he will have the opportunity to appeal on the basis of procedural violations once the BSR takes official action on the revision. I do not know his intentions on this.

ANSI Z88.5

Practices for Respiratory Protection for the Fire Service. This subcommittee, chaired by James Johnson, has had several preliminary meetings in preparation for revising the present standard.

ANSI Z88.6

Physical Qualifications for Personnel Using Respirators. I have recently asked David P. Discher, M.D. to form and chair a new subcommittee to revise this 1984 standard. Dr. Discher was a member of the subcommittee that wrote the earlier version. He is presently contacting prospective members for this task.

ANSI Z88.7

Identification of Respirator Cartridges. This standard is ready for **transmittal** to ANSI for approval. It is to be a replacement for the expired standard K13.1-1973.

ANSI Z88.8

Testing and Certification of Air-Purifying Respirators. This subcommittee, under the leadership of Bruce Reinert, has been very active and has a **draft** of a proposed standard nearly ready for review.

ANSI Z88.9

Testing and Certification of Air-Supplying Respirators. After a good start, this group has now become dormant due to the retirement of Bruce Held its chairperson. I need to find a replacement for Bruce and get the subcommittee active again.

ANSI Z88.10

Fit Testing of Respirators. Progress of this subcommittee is on hold pending a statistical analysis of the data available to validate the two qualitative fit test methods that it plans to recommend and OSHA has already required in its substance-specific standards. Barry McNeill, the chairperson, has asked three separate facilities to look at this analysis.

ANSI Z 88.12

Respiratory Protection for Biohazards. Pat Heinshon has had two organizational meetings of this committee. I attended their meeting in Salt Lake City and was impressed with the high caliber of the representatives that the sponsoring organizations have appointed to the subcommittee.