



NIOSH NPPTL Webinar Concerning Standard for Performance Requirements of the Combination Unit Respirator

The NIOSH National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory (NPPTL) will host a webinar, on March 5, 2015 from 1:00 to 3:00 EST, to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss the development of a NIOSH certification standard for Combination Unit Respirators (CURs). NIOSH is also using this opportunity to encourage participation in an upcoming Institute of Medicine (IOM) Workshop where these relevant topics will be further discussed in depth and incorporated into an IOM Summary Report. Information gathered at this NIOSH webinar and upcoming IOM workshop will be used by NIOSH to develop a NIOSH-NPPTL Report to update Congress on the progress of this standard.

A Combination Unit Respirator (CUR) is a multifunctional unit that employs the technology of two or more different types of respiratory protective devices (RPD) separately. The types of RPD technologies used in CUR is left to the discretion of the respirator manufacturer; however, a CUR typically consists of an Open Circuit- Self Contain Breathing Apparatus (OC-SCBA), an Air-Purifying Respirator (APR) and a Powered Air-Purifying Respirator (PAPR).

Meeting Emphasis: The Webinar will form a discussion base for the IOM Workshop, gathering information on relevant topic areas. The IOM Workshop, scheduled for April 30, 2015, will convene an expert committee to examine the aspects on the use of CUR and the development and adoption of a NIOSH CUR certification standard by first addressing questions such as the following:

What combination unit respirator technology is currently available in the U.S.?
Describe the unique features of the manufactured devices and according to the RPD types included in the combination(s).

What are the primary user groups interested in using NIOSH-certified combination unit respirators? What are the anticipated hazardous atmospheres/conditions that each user group is expected to encounter or enter and how are they assessed?

What are the current regulations limiting the use of combination unit respirators by the identified user groups and how do they limit use?

What regulatory options should NIOSH consider related to developing and adopting a NIOSH certification performance for combination unit respirator?

Optional/potential follow-on topics (questions 3 and 4) may include:

- Identify potential performance standards or requirements to be used or to be developed to include the identified features in certified combination unit respirators
- Identify potential research needed to validate the performance standard or requirement(s)
- Estimate timelines and resources needed to complete the required research

Are there other questions that should be presented at the workshop?

Webinar Presenters

Maryann D'Alessandro, Director NPPTL
Frank Palya, Project Lead
Chris Coffey, Associate Director for Science

Registration

Registration for the webinar is required and is limited to the first 100 participants. Directions to access the webinar will be sent to all registered participants no later than March 4, 2015.

Link to Registration Page:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/resources/certpgmspt/meetings/03052015/>

Background Information:

On December 9, 2010, NPPTL held a NIOSH Public Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA as a Request for Information forum to discuss the issues related to the development of the NIOSH CBRN CRU performance standard. Because of this meeting, the NIOSH Docket Number 082A "Combination Respirator Unit" was established to house all the documents relevant to developing the CRU performance standard including the December 9, 2010 Public Meeting presentations, transcripts, and stakeholder docket comments. NIOSH Docket Number 082A can be accessed at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docket/archive/docket082A.html>.

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