

Dragon, Karen E.

From: Lee Ptasnik [LPtasnik@go-mpsinc.com]
Sent: Friday, July 08, 2005 3:15 PM
To: NIOSH Docket Office
Subject: Powered, air-purifying respirator concept development

As the North American Distributor for the MAX Total Protection Helmet manufactured by Centurion Safety Products, Ltd. of the U.K. we have some comments, based on our experience with this product in the United States.

We have been supplying the MAX Helmet for five years, most specifically applied to underground mining operations, in particular, coal and trona. Feedback from our clients tells us that there is a need for a PAPR Standard specifically for the mining area where the contaminants are known.

In these cases, the PAPR needs to be as light and comfortable as possible, as they may be worn as long as a 12-hour shift. The requirement of industrial PAPRs to use HEPA Filters makes it necessary to increase the weight (and noise) of the PAPR, since the high resistance of the filters require larger and noisier fans/blowers, which in turn requires larger battery packs to deliver the flow for as long as 12 hours, necessary in mining.

It has been our findings in providing the MAX Helmet to the mining industry that there is a very strong interest in a NIOSH approved PAPR that would address the conditions in underground mining. Not only in terms of known contaminants but limitations of what a user can operate with for an 8 to 12-hour, sustained work shift.

It is the view that there should be a category for mining PAPRs that addresses the requirements and needs of the mining area for a dust and particulate PAPR.

We appreciate your consideration and if we can answer any questions or furnish additional information that will be of assistance to you, please feel free to reply to this email or call me directly.

Sincerely,

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