



1101 Wilson Blvd., Suite 1425
Arlington, VA 22033

September 28, 2023

The Hon. Xavier Becerra
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20210

The Hon. Shalanda Young
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Re: NIOSH National Personal Protective Technologies Lab certification staff must be deemed essential during the shutdown

Dear Sec. Becerra and Director Young,

I write with an urgent and important request. The staff members at the National Personal Protective Technologies Lab (NPPTL), a part of NIOSH, must be able to continue testing and approving respiratory protection during the expected government shutdown.

The International Safety Equipment Association (ISEA) is the association for companies that design, test, manufacture and supply a wide range of personal protective equipment (PPE), including respirators. ISEA members include world leaders in respirator design and manufacturing. 50 million people in the nation's workforce use respirators to stay safe at work.

Respirator manufacturers are continually designing new respirators and upgrading existing models, from disposable N95 respirators to self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBAs) and many other types. New respirators are designed to be able to fit the range of face sizes and shapes of the people in today's workforce.

To get these new products from the factory floor to workers' faces as soon as possible, NIOSH NPPTL staff members need to be present and working, even during the expected government shutdown.

ISEA understands FDA device clearance operations will continue during the shutdown. It is just as essential that NIOSH certification staff members continue working. American workers deserve to have NIOSH's respirator certification function operating, to make available in as short a time frame possible the latest innovations and advancements in respiratory protection.

In addition, respirator applications, including those for firefighters and healthcare, could be caught up in a months-long backlog if NIOSH is not allowed to keep its respirator certification operation functional throughout the expected government shutdown.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this request.

Please contact me at 202-445-8454 or at cmackey@safetysafetyequipment.org to discuss this further.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cam Mackey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cam" and last name "Mackey" clearly distinguishable.

Cam Mackey
President & CEO
International Safety Equipment Association