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_____ Subcommittee
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| | |
|--|--|
| 1. Name of Department or Agency U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission | 2. Subdivision or Office Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research |
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3. Rule Title
Revision 1 of Regulatory Guide 8.15, "Acceptable Programs for Respiratory Protection"

4. Regulation Identifier Number (RIN) or Other Unique Identifier (if applicable)
Regulatory Guide 8.15, Revision 1

5. Major Rule Non-major Rule

6. Final Rule Other Regulatory guidance

7. With respect to this rule, did your agency solicit public comments? Yes No N/A

8. Priority of Regulation (fill in one)
 Economically Significant; or Significant; or Substantive, Non Significant
 Routine and Frequent or Informational/Administrative/Other (Do not complete the other side of this form if filled in above.)

9. Effective Date (if applicable)

10. Concise Summary of Rule (fill in one or both) attached stated in rule

Submitted by: *Dennis K. Rathbun* (signature)
Name: Dennis K. Rathbun, Director
Title: Office of Congressional Affairs 10/14/99

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Submitted by: Linda Portney (signature)

Name: Dennis K. Rathbun, Director

Title: Office of Congressional Affairs 10/14/99

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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Revision 1
October 1999

REGULATORY GUIDE

OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REGULATORY RESEARCH

REGULATORY GUIDE 8.15

(Draft was issued as DG-8022)

ACCEPTABLE PROGRAMS FOR RESPIRATORY PROTECTION

A. INTRODUCTION

Subpart H, "Respiratory Protection and Controls To Restrict Internal Exposure," of 10 CFR Part 20, "Standards for Protection Against Radiation," specifies the conditions under which respiratory protection equipment may be used and lists the procedural requirements that must be met by a licensee when using respirators to limit intakes of radioactive material or to take credit for the protection assigned to a respirator in limiting and estimating intake of airborne radioactive materials. If an evaluation shows that further exposure reduction is appropriate, and no other practical means are available to reduce exposure to airborne radioactive materials, respiratory protection equipment may be assigned or its use may be permitted consistent with the intent of the guidance in this regulatory guide.

This regulatory guide describes a respiratory protection program that is acceptable to the NRC staff. This guide also provides guidance on performing evaluations to determine whether the use of respirators optimizes the sum of internal and external dose and other risks.

Licensees are encouraged to limit the use of respirators to situations in which respirator use has been shown to keep total effective dose equivalent (TEDE) as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA). Other

methods of protection against airborne radioactive material, such as the use of process or other engineering controls, limitation of exposure times, decontamination and so on, should be considered before the use of respirators.

The information collections contained in this regulatory guide are covered by the requirements of 10 CFR Part 20, which were approved by the Office of Management and Budget, Approval No. 3150-0014. The NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

B. DISCUSSION

Summary of Regulatory Requirements

It is widely recognized among safety professionals that the use of respiratory protection devices in the workplace can impose physiological and psychological stresses on workers, obstruct their vision, hinder their movements, and make effective communications difficult. These factors increase the risk of physical injury to respirator wearers that, in many cases, far exceeds any potential risk associated with the inhalation of a small quantity of airborne radioactive material. Therefore, in 10 CFR 20.1703 the NRC requires a minimum respirator program to control the risks associated with respirator use, even if the licensee does not intend to take credit

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This guide was issued after consideration of comments received from the public. Comments and suggestions for improvements in these guides are encouraged at all times, and guides will be revised, as appropriate, to accommodate comments and to reflect new information or experience.

Written comments may be submitted to the Rules Review and Directives Branch, ADM, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

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