

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM: 86-X-71

TO: All Directors, Supervisors and Field Personnel

FROM: William M. Lybrand, Director of OSH

SUBJECT: Applicability of Section 1910.134 to Single-Use Respirators

DATE: July 19, 1986

Purpose:

This memorandum clarifies South Carolina Department of Labor, Division of Occupational Safety and Health's position on the use of single-use respirators related to Section 1910.134.

Background:

A single-use respirator is defined in the NIOSH Certified Equipment List Handbook as "a respirator that is entirely discarded after excessive resistance, sorbent exhaustion, or physical damage renders it unsuitable for further use."

There has been confusion by consultation and compliance personnel regarding the applicability of Section 1910.134 to single-use respirators. The interpretation set forth in this memorandum will remove any confusion that may have been present.

Interpretation:

Since the single-use respirator has no supplied air, is entirely discarded, and contains no replaceable parts including canisters, paragraphs (b)(5), (d), (f) and (g) of Section 1910.134 do not apply to single-use respirators.

It is highly recommended that all employers that provide single-use respirators to their employees comply with all applicable provisions of Section 1910.134. Single-use respirators should be properly fitted in accordance with paragraph (e)(5)(i); although a quantitative fit test is not required.

Where over-exposure to any air contaminants exist, the employer shall be cited under the appropriate paragraph(s) of Section 1910.134 except for paragraphs (b)(5), (d), (f), and (g).

Effective Date:

This memorandum is effective upon receipt and will remain in effect until cancelled or superseded.