



Centers for Disease Control
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NIOSH RESPIRATOR USER NOTICE

**Subject: Approval of CBRN APR Respirators for use with NFPA 1994-2007
Edition Ensembles**

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has become aware of a potential issue with certain Class 3 and 4 protective suits that have been approved to the NFPA 1994-2007 *Standard on Protective Ensembles for First Responders to CBRN Terrorism Incidents*. These ensemble designs utilize NIOSH approved full-facepiece air purifying respirators (APR) for use against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) agents.

The NFPA 1994-2007 certification of the Indutex JetGuard Plus Class 3 Ensemble specifies that the Millennium® CBRN APR is to be used as part of this ensemble. This suit is designed with a pass-through hole and gasket on the visor that is interposed between the Millennium® mask and canister; therefore, the fit of the respirator may be compromised when used as part of this Class 3 Ensemble. NIOSH is concerned that when a negative pressure APR is used with a Class 3 or 4 suit that the face seal of the APR may be compromised resulting in reduced respiratory protection.

Any ensemble design that directly integrates with a NIOSH approved respirator or potentially interferes with the fit of a respirator must be evaluated for potential impact to Title 42, *Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 84 and other established NIOSH requirements. NIOSH considers any respirator incorporated into such a design as non-approved unless a suitable evaluation is performed and processed by NIOSH. Only the NIOSH approval holder may currently submit a request to NIOSH for evaluation and approval of respirator accessories.

If you have any questions regarding this issue, please feel free to contact us at 412-386-4000.

Sincerely,

Heinz W. Ahlers
Chief, Technology Evaluation Branch
National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory