



WisCon Words of Wisdom

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March Awareness Topics

March 3-9: [Women In Construction Week™](#)

March 10-16: [National Patient Safety Awareness Week](#)

March 18-22: [National Poison Prevention Week](#)

March 18-24: [National Drug & Alcohol Facts Week](#)

March 24-30: [International Cleaning Week](#)

All Month Long:

[Brain Injury Awareness Month](#)

[National Nutrition Month](#)

Workplace Eye Wellness Month

[National Ladder Safety Month](#)

[National Ladder Safety Month](#)

We want to hear from you!

What content would you like to see in an upcoming newsletter? Let us know [here](#).

OSHA Listens to Impacts of Indoor Heat in Restaurants

Under the Biden administration, heat and heat-related illnesses have been a hot topic for OSHA with efforts including an on-going National Emphasis Program for Outdoor and Indoor Heat-Related Hazards. Just last month, OSHA joined the Restaurant Opportunities Centers United in New York City for a listening session with restaurant workers talking about extreme indoor heat in the workplace.

For those of us unaware, many commercial kitchens can reach a temperature above 100 degrees Fahrenheit on any given day. It is generally recommended for work environments to be between 68 and 78°F.

During the meeting, OSHA officials discussed their commitment to address heat related hazards in both outdoor and indoor work, options on how to reduce risks, and how to empower workers to report workplace safety and health concerns to employers.

For more information, please refer to OSHA's [Readout: Department of Labor joins Restaurant Opportunities Center United for listening on impacts of indoor heat in the restaurant industry](#).

Spotlight Corner: Julie LaRose

Last month, we welcomed back Julie LaRose as a WisCon Consultant. Julie spent some time with WisCon some years ago while working on her Master's degree thesis project. From there, she worked in private industry as a Compliance Consultant, EHS Director, started her own consultation practice, and most recently was a Senior Hazardous Waste Specialist with the Wisconsin DNR. Julie is a Certified Safety Professional (CSP), Associate in Risk Management (ARM), and a Certified Hazardous Materials Manager (CHMM). Julie plans to begin conducting solo safety-focused consultation visits this month, so you may be seeing her sometime soon.

NIOSH Certifications for Respiratory Protection Products

By Ann Jurkowski

As an employer who requires or allows respirators to be worn in the workplace, there are many elements to cover. A written respiratory protection program, proper respirator selection, medical approval, training and fit testing are key elements of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Respiratory Protection Standard, 29 CFR 1910.134. Another key element of the Respiratory Protection Standard is to provide and ensure that only approved respirators are worn by your employees.

Within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 established NIOSH as a research agency focused on the study of worker safety and health. In 2001 the National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory (NPPTL) division was created within NIOSH. A main component of NPPTL's work is to test and approve respirators.

NPPTL has many resources for respiratory protection users, one of which is the [Counterfeit Respirators/Misrepresentation of NIOSH Approval](#) (Counterfeit) page. On this page are links to a searchable database of approved respirators, the [Certified Equipment List](#) and the [Conformity Assessment Notices and Letters to Manufacturers and Interested Parties](#) (Conformity) letters. In part, Conformity letters may provide information on the voluntary rescinding or NIOSH revocation of respirator approvals.

Recently, the NPPTL sent out notices that involve information on both counterfeit products and respirators that are no longer certified. Regardless of whether the approval is voluntarily rescinded or revoked by NIOSH, once the

letter is issued, respirators bearing these approval numbers can no longer be used, sold, distributed, manufactured or assembled. This means that if you have one of these respirators, you must immediately find and obtain an approved substitute.

Found about halfway down the [Counterfeit](#) page is the "Counterfeit or Misrepresented Respirator Examples" section. Recent information in this section involves information on fraudulent P100® filters being, "... sold on well-known online marketplaces ...". It is important to also note

that even if a **non-NIOSH** approved manufacturer/seller claims that their filters are compatible with NIOSH approved respirators, these filters **cannot** be used in place of the filter used to obtain the NIOSH approval.

NIOSH respirator approvals are given to complete respirator assemblies, which includes filters or cartridges. Substitution of any respirator component that was not included in the NIOSH approval voids the approval. More importantly, substitution of non-approved components may not provide the level of protection the respirator was approved for.

We recommend that you visit these web pages periodically to keep up to date on these topics. You can also subscribe to the [NPPTL Listserv](#) to receive announcements on all types of personal protective equipment.

Ann Jurkowski, MPH, CIH, is a WisCon Public Sector Consultant. She leads the efforts of providing service to employers within the Public Sector.



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