Respirators-Aligning Pesticide label language with current respirator technology

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The Issues

Over 2500 Pesticide labels have outdated or incorrect respirator language on them.

Pesticide users cannot properly select appropriate respiratory protection.

If pesticide users are not using the correct respirator, it is not enforceable.
1995 NIOSH Changes

- TC approval groups changed (who belonged to what)
- TC Approval numbers changed
- Language changed
TC Approval Groups
TC-21C

Prior to 1995

After 1995
NIOSH kicked it from the TC-21C Team!
NIOSH Approval prefix TC-23C for this configuration changed:

To: TC-84A.
The components described on pesticide labels.

**Organic Vapor cartridge**

Combo filters go here, either an N (no oil), R or P

TC-84A
The Current TC-23C

NIOSH Approved TC-23C still exists, but is NOT the same as before. This approval number is assigned to respirators (other than the outlier PAPR) having **only** one type of cartridge.

- organic vapor **only**
- ammonia **only**
- acid gas **only**
The following DOES NOT apply to PAPR, Gas Masks or SARs.

Why? Their Approval Designations stayed the same.
Particulate Respirators

- Protects against particulates: dusts & mists
- Can be an entire particulate filter, or used in combination with another type of cartridge for dual protection
If a particulate filter is the respirator, or attached to it, the TC Approval prefix is: TC-84A
TC-84 A is based solely on whether a particulate filter is attached!
Respirator Components
Approval Numbers

• Particulate – TC-84A
• Chemical cartridge ONLY : OV, Ammonia, Acid Gas – TC-23C
• *Powered Air Purifying Respirator (PAPR)*
  – TC-21C
  – TC-23C
• Gas mask- TC-14G
• Air supplied –
  – Air line – TC- 19C
  – Self contained breathing apparatus TC-13F
TC Approval Numbers for PAPRs remained the same

TC-21C with HE filters
TC-23C OV + HE filters

HE filters can only go on a PAPR!
Language Key for the Change that Occurred in **1995**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outdated EPA (NIOSH) language</th>
<th>Current NIOSH language</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NIOSH/MSHA</td>
<td>NIOSH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dust/Mist</td>
<td>Particulate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-filter approved for pesticides</td>
<td>Combination filter N, R or P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canister approved for pesticides</td>
<td>Canister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N, R, P or HE filters</td>
<td>N, R or P (HE filters can only go on PAPRs.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Only NIOSH Approved Respirators can be used.
Incorrect Respirator Language on the Pesticide Label

- A **dust/mist** filtering respirator - **MSHA/NIOSH** approval number **TC-21C**
- NIOSH approved respirator with any N,R,P or **HE filter**
- A respirator with an organic vapor removing cartridge with a **pre-filter** (**MSHA/NIOSH** approval number prefix **TC-23C**) or a canister **approved for pesticides** (**MSHA/NIOSH** approval number prefix TC-14G), or NIOSH approved respirator with an organic vapor (OV) cartridge or **canister with** any N,R,P, or **HE filter**.
No oil in Application Mix:
“For handling activities, use a dust/mist filtering respirator MSHA/NIOSH approval number prefix TC-21C; OR a NIOSH approved respirator with any N, R, P or HE filter.”
No oil in Application Mix:
A NIOSH approved particulate respirator with any N, R or P filter with NIOSH approval number prefix TC-84A; or a NIOSH approved powered air purifying respirator with HE filter with NIOSH approval number prefix TC-21C.
No Oil in Application Mix:
“...respirator with an organic-vapor removing cartridge with a pre-filter approved for pesticides (MHSA/NIOSH approval number prefix TC-23C), OR a canister approved for pesticides (MHSA/NIOSH approval number prefix TC-14G OR a NIOSH approved respirator with an organic vapor (OV) cartridge or canister with any N, R, P or HE filter.

Outdated Language in RED
No Oil in Application Mix:
A NIOSH-approved respirator with an organic vapor (OV) cartridge with a combination N, R, or P filter with NIOSH approval number prefix TC-84A; OR NIOSH approved gas mask with an organic vapor canister with NIOSH approval number prefix TC-14G; OR a NIOSH approved powered air purifying respirator with organic vapor (OV) cartridge and combination HE filter with NIOSH approval number prefix TC-23C.

½ face OV + N = **TC-84A**

Full face OV + P = **TC-84A**

Gas mask + OV Canister = **TC-14G**

PAPR + OV + HE = **TC-23C**
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) FOR RESPIRATORY PROTECTION

When an air-purifying respirator is required under this label’s Directions for Use, Protection for Handlers, Respiratory Protection and/or Stop Work Triggers section, handlers must wear at minimum either:

- A NIOSH-certified full facepiece air-purifying respirator equipped with an organic vapor (OV, NIOSH approval prefix TC-23C) cartridge and a particulate pre-filter (Type N, R, P, or HE, NIOSH approval number prefix TC-84A), or
- A gas mask with a canister approved for organic vapor (NIOSH approval number prefix TC-14G).

Cartridges or canisters must be replaced when odor or sensory irritation from this product becomes apparent during use, if the measured concentration of MITC is greater than 6000 ppb (6 ppm), or, in the absence of any other instructions or indications of service life, at the end of each day’s work period, whichever occurs first.