Waterfront Place (304/296–1700 or 1–800–333–3333) before the cut-off date of October 2, 2003. The following special group rates have been negotiated for meeting guests: $66.00 per night for federal guests and $79.00 per night for non-federal guests. The NIOSH National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory (NPPTL) Public Meeting must be referenced to receive these special rates. Interested parties should confirm their attendance to this meeting by completing a registration form and forwarding it by e-mail (*npptlevents@cdc.gov*) or fax (304–285–4459) to the NIOSH Event Management Office. A registration form may be obtained from the NIOSH Homepage (*www.cdc.gov/niosh*) by selecting Conferences and then the event.

An opportunity to make presentations regarding the conceptual quality assurance standards module will be given. Requests to make such presentations at the public meeting should be made by e-mail (*npptlevents@cdc.gov*) to the NIOSH Event Management Office. All requests to present should include the name, address, telephone number, relevant business affiliations of the presenter, a brief summary of the presentation, and the approximate time requested for the presentation. Oral presentations should be limited to 15 minutes.

After reviewing the requests for presentations, NIOSH Event Management will notify each presenter of the approximate time that their presentation is scheduled to begin. If a participant is not present when their presentation is scheduled to begin, the remaining participants will be heard in order. At the conclusion of the meeting, an attempt will be made to allow presentations by any scheduled participants who missed their assigned times. Attendees who wish to speak but did not submit a request for the opportunity to make a presentation may be given this opportunity at the conclusion of the meeting, at the discretion of the presiding officer. Comments on the topics presented in this notice and at the meeting should be mailed to the NIOSH Docket Office, Robert A. Taft Laboratories, M/S C34, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, Ohio 45226, Telephone 513–533–8303, Fax 513/533–8285. Comments may also be submitted by e-mail to *niocindocket@cdc.gov.* E-mail attachments should be formatted as WordPerfect 6/7/8/9 or Microsoft Word. Comments should be submitted to NIOSH no later than November 16, 2003, and should reference Docket Number NIOSH–001 in the subject heading.

Purpose: NIOSH has initiated conceptual discussions for quality assurance standards for respiratory protective equipment. The concepts for the update of 42 CFR part 84 to address quality assurance provisions, establish fees, improve labels and update certain administrative provisions were presented in a public meeting held on June 25, 2003. Participants will be given an opportunity to ask questions on these topics and to present individual comments for consideration. Interested participants may obtain a copy of the quality assurance concept paper from the NPPTL web site, address: *www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl.* The July 21, 2003, concept paper and the information presented at the June 25, 2003, public meeting will be used as the basis for discussion at the October 16, 2003, public meeting. Responses to the comments received since the June 25, 2003, meeting will also be discussed. NIOSH has the lead in developing standards or guidelines to test, evaluate, and approve respirators for use in occupational settings. International trade has led to changes in accepted quality assurance practice in manufacturing environments throughout the world. In attempting to keep respirator standards abreast of current manufacturing practice, NIOSH has met with the public and respirator manufacturers to receive input on the development of new respirator quality assurance standards. NIOSH hosted the most recent of these public meetings on June 25, 2003, where concepts developed up to that date were presented.

CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: NIOSH Event Management, 3610 Collins Ferry Road, PO Box 880, Morgantown, West Virginia 26507–0880, Telephone 304–285–4750, Fax 304–285–4459, E-mail *npptlevents@cdc.gov.*

The Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, has been delegated the authority to sign Federal Register Notices pertaining to announcements of meetings and other committee management activities, for both CDC and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

Dated: September 11, 2003.

Alvin Hall,

Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

[FR Doc. 03–23685 Filed 9–16–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4163–19–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health; Notice of Meeting

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces the following meeting:

Name: Conceptual Discussions for Powered Air Purifying Respirator Standards Development Efforts Used for Respiratory Protection Against Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Agents.

Date and Time: October 16, 2003; 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

Place: The Radisson Hotel at Waterfront Place, 2 Waterfront Place, Morgantown, West Virginia.

Status: This meeting is hosted by NIOSH and will be open to the public, limited only by the space available. The meeting room will accommodate approximately 175 people. Interested parties should make hotel reservations directly with the Radisson Hotel at Waterfront Place (304/296–1700 or 1–800–333–3333) before the cut-off date of October 2, 2003. The following special group rates have been negotiated for meeting guests: $66.00 per night for Federal guests and $79.00 per night for non-Federal guests. The NIOSH National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory (NPPTL) Public Meeting must be referenced to receive these special rates. Interested parties should confirm their attendance to this meeting by completing a registration form and forwarding it by e-mail (*npptlevents@cdc.gov*) or fax (304–285–4459) to the NIOSH Event Management Office. A registration form may be obtained from the NIOSH homepage (*www.cdc.gov/niosh*) by selecting Conferences and then the event.

An opportunity to make presentations regarding the conceptual discussions of standards and testing processes for powered air purifying respirator standards suitable for respiratory protection against CBRN Agents will be given. Requests to make such presentations at the public meeting should be made by e-mail (*npptlevents@cdc.gov*) to the NIOSH Event Management Office. All requests to present should include the name, address, telephone number, relevant business affiliations of the presenter, a brief summary of the presentation, and the approximate time requested for the presentation. Oral presentations should be limited to 15 minutes. After reviewing the requests for presentations, NIOSH Event Management will notify each presenter of the approximate time that their presentation is scheduled to begin. If a participant is not present when their presentation is scheduled to begin, the remaining participants will be heard in order. At the conclusion of the meeting, an attempt will be made to allow presentations by any scheduled participants who missed their assigned times. Attendees who wish to speak but did not submit a request for the

opportunity to make a presentation may be given this opportunity at the conclusion of the meeting, at the discretion of the presiding officer.

Comments on the topics presented in this notice and at the meeting should be mailed to the NIOSH Docket Office, Robert A. Taft Laboratories, M/S C34, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, Ohio 45226, Telephone 513–533–8303, Fax 513/533–8285. Comments may also be submitted by e-mail to *niocindocket@cdc.gov.* E-mail attachments should be formatted as WordPerfect 6/7/8/9 or Microsoft Word. Comments should be submitted to NIOSH no later than November 16, 2003, and should reference Docket Number NIOSH–010 in the subject heading.

Purpose: NIOSH will initiate conceptual discussions of standards and testing processes for powered air purifying respirator standards suitable for respiratory protection against CBRN Agents. NIOSH, along with the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command (SBCCOM) and the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST), will present information to attendees concerning the concept development for the powered air purifying respirator CBRN standard. Participants will be given an opportunity to ask questions on these topics and to present individual comments for consideration. Interested participants may obtain a copy of the powered air purifying respirator CBRN concept paper, as well as earlier versions of other concept papers used during the standard development effort, from the NPPTL Web site, address: *www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl.* The September 15, 2003, concept paper will be used as the basis for discussion at the public meeting, as well as forming the basis for the new powered air purifying respirator CBRN statement of standard. The continuing threat of acts of terrorism has created an urgent awareness of domestic security and preparedness issues. Municipal, State, and Federal responder groups, particularly those in locations considered potential targets, have been developing and modifying response and consequence management plans. Since the World Trade Center and anthrax incidents, most emergency response agencies have operated with a heightened appreciation of the potential scope and sustained resources requirements for coping with such events. The Federal Interagency Board for Equipment Standardization and Interoperability (IAB) has worked to identify personal protective equipment that is already available on the market for responders' use. The IAB has identified the development of standards or guidelines for respiratory protection equipment as a top priority. NIOSH, NIST, the National Fire Protection Association, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration entered into a Memorandum of Understanding defining each agency or organization's role in developing, establishing, and enforcing standards or guidelines for responders' respiratory protective devices. NIST initiated Interagency Agreements with NIOSH and SBCCOM to aid in the development of appropriate protection standards or guidelines. NIOSH has the lead in developing standards or guidelines to test, evaluate, and approve respirators. NIOSH, SBCCOM, and NIST hosted public meetings on April 17 and 18, 2001; June 18 and 19, 2002; October 16 and 17, 2002; April 29, 2003; and June 25, 2003, presenting their progress in assessing respiratory protection needs of responders to CBRN incidents. The methods or models for developing hazard and exposure estimates, and the status in evaluating test methods and performance standards that may be applicable as future CBRN respirator standards or guidelines were discussed at these meetings.

For Further Information Contact: NIOSH Event Management, 3610 Collins Ferry Road, P.O. Box 880, Morgantown, West Virginia 26507–0880, Telephone 304–285–4750, Fax 304–285–4459, E-mail *npptlevents@cdc.gov.*

The Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, has been delegated the authority to sign **Federal Register** notices pertaining to announcements of meetings and other committee management activities, for both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

Dated: September 11, 2003.

Alvin Hall,

Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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BILLING CODE 4163–19–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Final Recommendations for Protecting Human Health from Potential Adverse Effects of Exposure to Agents GA (Tabun), GB (Sarin), and VX

AGENCY: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Public Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services.

ACTION: Notice of final recommendations for protecting human health from potential adverse effects of exposure to agents GA, GB, and VX.

SUMMARY: Agents GA, GB, and VX are stored and are in the process of being destroyed by the Department of Defense (DoD). Public Law 99–145 (50 U.S.C. 1521) mandates that all unitary (self-contained) lethal chemical munitions be destroyed. Public Law 91–121 and Public Law 91–441 (50 U.S.C 1512) mandate that the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) review DoD plans for disposing of these munitions and make recommendations to protect public health.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2005. An implementation period is necessary to allow the DoD to make program adjustments and allow time for changes to environmental permits as required.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Paul Joe, Acting Chief, Chemical Demilitarization Branch, National Center for Environmental Health, CDC, 4770 Buford Highway, M/S F–16, Atlanta, Georgia 30341.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On January 8, 2002, DHHS, CDC published proposed ''Airborne Exposure Limits for Chemical Warfare Agents GA (tabun), GB (sarin) and VX'' in the **Federal Register** (Vol. 67, No. 5, Pages 894–901, Tuesday, January 8, 2002), seeking public comment. This notice discusses major comments received, describes decisions regarding the public comments, and states the final recommendations. CDC received comments from the U.S. Army, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), the CDC's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), State of Utah, U.S. Army contractors, and two individuals. The comments fell into the following general categories: Assumptions used in the risk assessment, selection of uncertainty factors, determination of the relative potency factor for the VX exposure limits, and technical feasibility of air monitoring at the lower exposure limits.

The key comments potentially impacting CDC's recommendations are discussed below. The U.S. Army recommended that adjustment in the risk assessment algorithm for breathing rate be eliminated because the critical endpoint in deriving the exposure limits is miosis, a clinical sign that is recognized as a local effect on the muscles of the iris of the eye. This biologic endpoint is widely considered to be a direct effect of the nerve agent vapor on the surface of the eye (not related to breathing rate). Scientists from CDC/NIOSH however, indicated that the data do not completely rule out the potential contribution of inhaled agent to the miosis effect. The weight of the scientific data appears to support the Army's recommendation on this matter, and CDC has decided to eliminate the breathing rate adjustment. Eliminating the breathing rate adjustment increases the worker population limit (WPL) by a factor of slightly more than two. No significant change in the general population limit (GPL) would occur by eliminating the breathing rate adjustment.

In the derivation of the WPL for GB, CDC/NIOSH experts recommended that an additional uncertainty factor of three be added to account for individual worker variability. Although workers