



MEMORANDUM

February 11, 2008

To: All OSHA

From: Marilyn K. Schuster, Policy Manager

Subject: Tuberculosis and Enforcement of Respiratory Protection Standard

Each year, the President signs into law the fiscal year's omnibus spending bill, which includes Occupational Safety & Health Administration expenditures. For the past several years, the legislative text of the bill did not allow funds (including state funding) to administer or enforce the annual fit-testing respiratory protection provision for occupation exposure to tuberculosis (TB).

However, the 2008 budget, which was recently signed, did not include this prohibition. This means that Oregon OSHA will begin enforcing annual fit tests for TB effective April 1, 2008. All employers must perform annual fit tests for all employees who must wear respirators, including those who wear respirators for protection against tuberculosis.

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