

New NIOSH Requirement for Spirometry Refresher Course!

Our records indicate that you completed a NIOSH-Approved Spirometry Course conducted by Workplace Group within the last several years, or you may be due for a Spirometry Refresher Course soon. As a courtesy, we are informing you of a new regulation by NIOSH that affects your certification.

Effective January 1st 2009, two important changes to the NIOSH Spirometry Training Program took effect.

First: prior to January 1st 2009, NIOSH did not require a Refresher course in order to maintain certification. Refresher courses were offered primarily for educational purposes only. This has changed. NIOSH now requires that Technicians who wish to maintain a valid NIOSH-Approved Spirometry Course certificate must complete a NIOSH-Approved Refresher Course (or repeat the full two-day Course) every 5 years.

- Technicians whose NIOSH-Approved Spirometry Course certificates are dated January 1st 2006 or later must successfully complete a NIOSH-Approved Spirometry Refresher Course (or repeat the full Course) within 5 years of the date of their initial course to maintain a valid NIOSH-Approved Spirometry Course certificate.
- Technicians whose NIOSH-Approved Spirometry Course certificates are dated January 1st 2000 through December 31, 2005 must successfully complete a NIOSH-Approved Spirometry Refresher Course (or repeat the full Course) by December 31, 2010 to maintain a valid NIOSH-Approved Spirometry Course certificate.
- Technicians with NIOSH-Approved Spirometry Course certificates dated prior to January 1st 2000 are not eligible to take a NIOSH-Approved Spirometry Refresher Course. To maintain valid certificates, these students will need to successfully repeat the full two-day NIOSH-Approved Spirometry Course.

Second: NIOSH will begin approving instructors to teach the new agenda for the Spirometry Refresher Courses in 2009. **Before you take a Refresher course in 2009, it is imperative that you verify that the Refresher course you wish to take has actually been approved by NIOSH.** The new Refresher course agenda has not been provided by NIOSH as of this writing. Just because an instructor has taught a Refresher course for many years and has scheduled 2009 courses does not mean that the instructor's 2009 Refresher courses are NIOSH-approved! You can verify that the 2009 Refresher course you wish to take is NIOSH-approved by contacting Lu-Ann Beeckman-Wagner of NIOSH at lbb3@cdc.gov. Lu-Ann will be glad to assist you.

Workplace INTEGRA is in the process of receiving the new NIOSH-approved agenda for its Refresher courses. Approved Refresher course dates will be listed on our website, www.workplaceintegra.com, along with 2009 course dates for CAOHC-approved hearing conservation training courses.

Thank you and we look forward to serving you!