

criteria for a recommended standard....

**OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE
TO
WASTE ANESTHETIC GASES AND VAPORS**



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
Public Health Service
Center for Disease Control
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

(3) Ventilation systems shall be subject to regular preventive maintenance and cleaning to ensure maximum effectiveness, which shall be verified at least quarterly by airflow measurements.

(d) Anesthetic Equipment Maintenance

(1) Leak tests, as described in Appendix I, shall be made on both high- and low-pressure components so that waste anesthetic gas levels are maintained at a minimum.

(2) Within 180 days after promulgation of a standard for occupational exposure to waste anesthetic gases and at least quarterly thereafter, equipment for administering anesthetic agents shall be tested in accordance with Appendix I to ensure that the low-pressure leak rate is less than 100 ml/minute at 30 cm water pressure, or an equivalent pressure drop, and during the quarter less than 1 liter/minute at 30 cm water pressure. Tests for high-pressure leaks shall be conducted by an appropriate technique presented in Appendix I or equivalent. All new equipment for the administration of anesthetic agents shall meet these requirements. Mechanical ventilators employed for the administration of anesthetic agents shall be tested quarterly for proper functioning.

(3) Low-pressure leak tests, as described in Appendix I, shall be performed daily for the complete anesthetic machine. Low-pressure leaks shall be less than 100 ml/minute at 30 cm water pressure, or an equivalent pressure drop. If the leak rate is in excess of the recommendations, the leaks shall be located and repaired before use of the equipment.

(4) After each cleaning, face masks, tubing, breathing bags, and endotracheal tubes shall be inspected for cracks and other leak