

\$0.4 million. Industry-specific compliance costs vary according to the number of respirator users and the proportion of these users affected by the proposed rule. Industries with relatively large compliance costs include SIC 17, Special trade contractors (\$0.8 million), and SIC 80, Health services (\$0.8 million). Potentially offsetting these costs are a limited number of cases where employers would be allowed to shift to a less expensive respirator.

As discussed previously, however, the Agency believes the actual costs of the proposal almost certainly are overestimated. The cost analysis assumes all respirator wearers have levels of exposures that require the particular respirator they are using. Under this assumption, OSHA estimates over 15,000 employees would be allowed to safely shift to a less expensive respirator, which could lead to cost savings for the employer. Such

potential cost savings are not accounted for in this cost analysis.

In many cases, however, employers use respirators when respirators are not required by OSHA, or use respirators more protective than required by OSHA. As a result, OSHA's cost analysis overestimates the number of employees who are affected by the standard, and therefore overestimates costs associated with the standard.

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