



NEW MEXICO BUREAU OF MINE SAFETY

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April 2018 Newsletter

NIOSH Pilots Silica Monitoring System

By: Adele L. Abrams, Esq., CMSP

Respirable crystalline silica has been recognized as an occupational health hazard since the time of the ancient Greeks, and myriad studies in the United States over the past century have further supported the correlation between exposures to silica in the workplace and the development of respiratory diseases including silicosis, pneumoconiosis, COPD, and lung cancer (in addition to suggested correlations with renal and auto-immune diseases). More recently, a study released in February 2018 noted an accelerated development of black lung disease in coal miners, possibly due to increased exposure to silica generated by commonly used mining methods. OSHA reduced its permissible exposure limit (PEL) to 50 ug/m³ as an eight-hour time-weighted average, but MSHA still allows miners to legally be exposed to twice the OSHA PEL, and has tabled for now its own rulemaking that would bring exposures into conformity with OSHA.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH) has now started a pilot project to use a monitoring system at more than 60 mines that could provide real time silica exposure results at the end of each workshift. This system would alert miners to their potential risk much sooner than the current sampling system, which often involves delays of several weeks before the exposure monitoring results are shared with miners. Real-time data will also allow adjustments to controls to make them more effective, without delaying such changes until the exposure monitoring results are returned by the laboratory.

The new technology uses commercially available instruments to collect dust samples, but the samples could be analyzed on the same day they are collected, and this will allow for quicker adjustments to equipment (or to selection of respiratory protective equipment) if silica exposures are elevated. NIOSH hopes to roll out the system and make it user-friendly by the end of 2018, so that it can be implemented in the mines.

While MSHA requires “surveys” at metal/nonmetal mines to ensure that miners are not exposed above the current PEL (equivalent to 100 ug/m³), there are no specified sampling requirements to guide employers on what is required. At present, there would be no legal requirement to implement the new monitoring devices at any mines, coal or metal/nonmetal site.

The NIOSH field-based approach still uses dust sampling cassettes, but the samples could be quickly analyzed in a few minutes on-site using the new instrumentation – which costs between \$10,000 and \$25,000 for employers to purchase. However, this would also eliminate the need for laboratory analysis, which would offset some of the initial expense.

At this time, MSHA would not permit the use of this approach as it dictates the type of sampling devices that are permitted under its respirable dust rule (for coal) and this excludes the gravimetric samples used by this system. It could, however, be helpful in gauging the real-time effectiveness of engineering controls, even if it was not used for MSHA compliance purposes. The system also holds promise more immediately in OSHA-regulated workplaces that are already under the agency’s reduced silica PEL and must conduct more frequent sampling to develop effective exposure control plans.

For more information on silica solutions, contact the Law Office’s team at 301-595-3520 or write to: safetylawyer@gmail.com.

Adele L. Abrams is an attorney, safety professional and trainer who is president of the Law Office of Adele L. Abrams P.C. in Beltsville, MD, Charleston, WV, and Denver, CO, a multi-attorney firm focusing on safety, health and employment law nationwide.



Adele is a frequent presenter at the New Mexico Safety Conference and as well as other conferences across the country. On May 10, Adele will speak on Legally Sound Incident Investigations at the NMMSHC. Conference information is on the back page of this newsletter.

AMENDED M/NM WORKPLACE EXAM RULE 56/57.18002 TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER ON 4/9

FULL TEXT ON PAGE 2

April 2018 Newsletter

Metal/Non-metal Workplace Exam Rule On Schedule for Implementation--June 2

As of April 6, If you access the online version of 30-CFR on MSHA's website, you will find that there are two versions of .18002 under both the Part 56 and Part 57 regulations.

56/57 18002 is the current version of the regulation that has been stayed until June 2. MSHA has considered two modifications to this rule and is expected to publish the amended version on April 9.

56/57/18002T is a duplication of the old rule that was placed back into the CFR so that an enforceable workplace examination rule would still be in effect until June 2. This rule expires on June 2.

On April 6, MSHA posted the following announcement:

MSHA's Final Rule on Examinations of Working Places in Metal and Nonmetal Mines

The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) will publish a final rule on Examinations of Working Places in Metal and Nonmetal Mines that amends a final rule published on January 23, 2017.

The amendments to the final rule require that an examination of the working place be conducted before work begins or as miners begin working in that place, and that the examination record include a description of each condition found that may adversely affect the safety or health of miners and is not corrected promptly, and the date of the corrective action for the condition.

MSHA will publish a separate notice announcing stakeholder meetings across the country to provide outreach and compliance assistance materials on the Final Rule. A notice announcing additional meetings to be held in Seattle, Washington and locations by way of video teleconferencing will be published at a later date.

The documents will be published in the Federal Register on April 9, 2018. They are available for viewing today, April 6, 2018, at the Office of the Federal Register, Public Inspection Desk as a Regular Filing. Additional information on the final rule is found on MSHA's website.

Further insight into compliance with the new Workplace Exam rule will be provided at the NMMSHC in Albuquerque May 9-11. See back page for registration information.

The following rule under Part 56 and Part 57 will be published in the Federal Register on April 9. (highlights added)

§ 56/57.18002 Examination of working places.

(a) A competent person designated by the operator shall examine each working place at least once each shift before work begins or as miners begin work in that place, for conditions that may adversely affect safety or health.

(1) The operator shall promptly notify miners in any affected areas of any conditions found that may adversely affect safety or health and promptly initiate appropriate action to correct such conditions.

(2) Conditions noted by the person conducting the examination that may present an imminent danger shall be brought to the immediate attention of the operator who shall withdraw all persons from the area affected (except persons referred to in section 104(c) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977) until the danger is abated.

(b) A record of each examination shall be made before the end of the shift for which the examination was conducted. The record shall contain the name of the person conducting the examination; date of the examination; location of all areas examined; and description of each condition found that may adversely affect the safety or health of miners and is not corrected promptly.

(c) When a condition that may adversely affect safety or health is not corrected promptly, the examination record shall include, or be supplemented to include, the date of the corrective action.

(d) The operator shall maintain the examination records for at least one year, make the records available for inspection by authorized representatives of the Secretary and the representatives of miners, and provide these representatives a copy on request.

[FR Doc. 2018-07084 Filed: 4/6/2018 8:45 am; Publication Date: 4/9/2018]

Nobody trips over mountains. It is the small pebble that causes you to stumble. Pass all the pebbles in your path and you will find you have crossed the mountain.

~Author Unknown

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Bureau of Mine Safety Acquires New Training Toys

No one wants to sit through another boring annual refresher course. So, the Bureau of Mine Safety has invested some resources into some new training tools, including some different AV materials and some hardware. We've even incorporated crossword puzzles into our curriculum to help get those brain juices flowing and generate discussion.

Pictured on the right is one of our BullEx fire extinguisher training units. Ready for a little hands-on?

A digital fire is projected on a flat screen (including sound effects). The simulated

fire can be Class A, B or C and can be adjusted for difficulty. A timer starts at the initiation. The special fire extinguishers look and feel like real fire extinguishers. Instead of dispensing dry chemical, these project a laser light that you direct toward the simulated flame. The time displays the time that you required to extinguish the fire. Beware though. The fire extinguisher is programmed to quit in about the same amount of time that a real fire extinguisher would be expended. It's fun, clean, and helps to develop the skills that are essential to fighting a fire successfully.



But there's more! We recently received two LOTO panels (pictured left). Each of these portable units include a variety circuit breakers and valves to practice and test your skills in LOTO procedures. We've added a supply of padlocks, hasps and some additional lock-out devices so that we can work several scenarios including locking out multiple devices and multiple people locking out on one or more devices.

Maintaining a positive control of energy during service and maintenance is critical to injury prevention across all industries.

Need New Miner Training, Annual Refresher Training, First Aid Training? The Bureau of Mine Safety is ready to assist. Part 46; Part 48-B

Call 575-835-5460

Coming soon: NSC Certified First Aid & CPR

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MSHA PROGRAM POLICY MANUAL—The ACT

Note: This column has previously focused on the MSHA Program Policy Manual as it applies to Title 30-CFR. Sometimes it is good to back up to the foundations of mine regulation. This month, we will look at the PPM as it applies to select parts of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977.

SEC. 103. (a) Authorized representatives of the Secretary or the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare shall make frequent inspections and investigations in coal or other mines each year for the purpose of (1) obtaining, utilizing, and disseminating information relating to health and safety conditions, the causes of accidents, and the causes of diseases and physical impairments originating in such mines, (2) gathering information with respect to mandatory health or safety standards, (3) determining whether an imminent danger exists, and (4) determining whether there is compliance with the mandatory health or safety standards or with any citation, order, or decision issued under this title or other requirements of this Act. In carrying out the requirements of this subsection, no advance notice of an inspection shall be provided to any person, except that in carrying out the requirements of clauses (1) and (2) of this subsection, the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare may give advance notice of inspections. In carrying out the requirements of clauses (3) and (4) of this subsection, the Secretary shall make inspections of each underground coal or other mine in its entirety at least four times a year, and of each surface coal or other mine in its entirety at least two times a year. The Secretary shall develop guidelines for additional inspections of mines based on criteria including, but not limited to, the hazards found in mines subject to this Act, and his experience under this Act and other health and safety laws. For the purpose of making any inspection or investigation under this Act, the Secretary, or the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, with respect to fulfilling his responsibilities under this Act, or any authorized representative of the Secretary or the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, shall have a right of entry to, upon, or through any coal or other mine.

PPM 103(a) Advance Notice

Section 103(a) of the Act prohibits giving advance notice of inspections conducted by an authorized representative of the Secretary of Labor.

However, there are limited occasions when advance notice is contemplated by the Act. An implied exception to the prohibition against advance notice exists in Section 103(g)(1).

In this case, where a representative of the miners or a miner gives notice of what he believes to be an imminent danger, the operator or his agent must be notified "forthwith." Such notification will almost always have the effect of indirectly giving notice of an inspection.

The Act does not prohibit advance notice of investigative activities (activities which are not direct enforcement activities). However, notice of investigative activities shall only be given when there is a need for such notice. Clearance and direction must be obtained from the inspector's supervisor before notice is given for investigative activities. Investigative activities include:

1. Obtaining information for health and safety research;
 2. Technical assistance, including field certifications;
 3. Obtaining information for petitions for modifications, etc.;
 4. Criminal investigations;
 5. Education and training;
 6. Investigation of discrimination complaints;
 7. Demonstrations of research or prototype equipment;
- and
8. Investigation of hazard complaints.

Any information relating to inspection and investigation schedules, including an inspector's mine assignments, shall be restricted solely to MSHA personnel who have need of such knowledge.

It is important to note that even in cases where direct enforcement activities are involved, it may be necessary to make some type of arrangement with personnel at the mine when certain preparations are essential to carry out enforcement activities. The important point to remember is that any arrangements or notice relating to an enforcement activity that is not essential to carry out that activity is considered to be "advance notice" as the term is used in Section 103(a) of the Act.

Clearance must be obtained from the inspector's supervisor before notice is given for preparation essential to an enforcement activity. In all cases where there is a representative of miners, when notice of either enforcement or investigative activities is given, it will be given to representatives of both the operator and the miners. Examples of possible essential preparations are described below:

1. If an inspector intends to include a routine second- or third-shift inspection, it might be necessary for him to designate a time and meeting place so that the representatives of the operator and miners can be given an opportunity to accompany the inspector. Pre-selected meeting sites should not reveal the specific areas to be inspected. However, it is recognized that the normal progression of an inspection may reveal remaining areas to be inspected.

When special preparations are needed during an inspection for an examination of a mine power system, it is permissible for the inspector to make arrangements for the inspection of the electrical system during scheduled down time.

If it is necessary to interrupt an inspection for any cause, the inspector is permitted to inform the operator that the inspection is interrupted and will be resumed at the discretion of the inspector.

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.103-2 Company Release Forms

An inspector shall not sign a responsibility release form when entering a mine to perform his duties. An inspector may sign a check-in and check-out book located at the mine, provided that it does not involve release of liability. Denial of "right of entry" for not signing a release shall be reported in accordance with Section 108 of the Act.

I.103-3 Performance of Work Other Than Inspections and Investigations

Inspectors may provide safety and health educational assistance. The inspector shall not perform any work at a mine.

I.103-4 Respirable Dust and Noise Sampling

Each underground coal mine operator develops a respirable dust control plan for maintaining compliance with the 2.0 milligram or lower standard. MSHA reviews and tests the operator's respirable dust control plan by taking samples in accordance with MSHA's Health Inspection Procedures Handbook. Once the plan is approved, inspectors measure the engineering parameters during each inspection to assure that all of the plan's elements are followed. If the plan is not being followed, the appropriate citation/order is issued. Respirable coal mine dust samples are collected during the four annual coal mine underground inspections for each active sampling entity.

Respirable coal mine dust samples are collected at surface mines in accordance with the Health Inspection Procedures Handbook. These samples will be collected during the two annual surface mine/facilities inspections for each active sampling entity.

Noise samples will be collected at locations in accordance with the Health Inspection Procedures Handbook. Noise samples will be collected one time per year on each active coal mine (surface/facilities and underground).

103(a) Mandated Inspections

Section 103(a) of the Act requires a minimum of four inspections a year for underground mines and a minimum of two inspections a year for surface mines. Consistent with Section 103(a) of the Act, the procedures for conducting the inspection of an underground mine in its entirety at least four times a year and a surface mine (including a facility) in its entirety at least twice a year are set forth in the respective General Inspection Procedures Handbooks for Coal and Metal and Nonmetal.

MSHA's interpretation is that this requirement applies to full-time producing mines operating for the entire fiscal year period. For mines which started operating in the middle of the fiscal year, fewer inspections are required. MSHA's policy for these mines is based on an average of one inspection every quarter for underground mines and an average of one inspection every six months for surface operations. Underground mines in an inspectable status for 45 days or more in a quarter require an inspection, and surface operations in an inspectable status for 90 days or more in a six month period require an inspection.

For intermittent surface mines, MSHA's policy requires one inspection a year.

If a coal mine has an ongoing re-opening inspection under 303(x) of the Mine Act, the number of days from the start date to the end date of that inspection will be excluded from the calculation of the time available for a regular inspection.

If a mine has received an Attempted Inspection (Denial of Entry) event during the inspection period, no inspection is required for that period.

If the status of a mine changes to abandoned, abandoned sealed, or temporarily idle before the end of the inspection period and remains in one of those statuses, no inspection is required. Inspection requirements for previous inspection periods remain in effect.

103(a) Authority to Inspect - Authorization for Representatives

Inspections and investigations under the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 shall be conducted only by persons who have been authorized by the Secretary to conduct such inspections or investigations. The inspector's authorization shall be available during inspections and investigations.

103(a) Authority to Conduct Special Investigations - SI Credentials

Section 103(a) of the Act authorizes MSHA to conduct special investigations as an integral part of the Agency's enforcement program. The Technical Compliance and Investigation Divisions (TCID) are responsible for overall administration and management of the special investigations program. In order to promote the consistent application and management of the program, TCID will develop statistical and management information based on special investigations activities in the field. This includes evaluating the effectiveness of each district's special investigation program, monitoring district compliance with national policies and procedures, and providing periodic updates on the status of cases. As part of the Agency's accountability program, accountability reviews of the special investigations program will be conducted by the national office on a recurring basis. TCID has responsibility for the following sections of the Act:

1. Section 105 complaints of discrimination filed by miners and other protected persons;
2. Section 108 injunctive actions; and
3. Section 110 civil and criminal violations of the Mine Act and/or mandatory safety and health standards.

The special investigations program does not have responsibility for nor does it conduct internal investigations. Any allegations of employee misconduct, including advance notification of inspections, should be referred to the appropriate Administrator.

Investigations of discrimination complaints and possible knowing and/or willful violations shall be conducted only by persons who have been authorized by the Secretary to conduct special investigations. Special investigator (SI) credentials will be issued by the Assistant Secretary for MSHA to those persons who have completed the specified investigator training. SI credentials will be carried at all times when conducting special investigations. Improper use or failure to safeguard SI credentials may result in disciplinary action. Only MSHA approved SI credentials may be used in the performance of any special investigation and may only be used by the authorized representative to whom the SI credentials have been issued.

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MSHA Requests Comment on Powered Haulage Safety



MSHA holds quarterly stakeholder meetings (typically within 2-3 weeks after the end of a calendar quarter) using conference calling technology and PowerPoint slides that may be downloaded from the MSHA website. In preparation for the April stakeholder meeting, MSHA is requesting input on powered haulage safety. Certainly, MSHA will also consider comments and suggestions after the meeting as well.

During the call, expect a review of recent accidents involving powered haulage, as well as technological solutions that encourage safe behavior. The focus will likely be on:

- Large powered haulage vehicles striking smaller vehicles;
- Seatbelt usage in powered haulage vehicles; and
- Conveyor belt safety, including disconnecting power and using crosswalks safely.



MSHA selected these because of the excessive occurrence of preventable injuries and fatalities associated with them.

In 2017, three miners were fatally injured after they failed to buckle up. A review of fatalities since 2007 found 35 such fatalities.

In 2017, four miners were fatally injured after their vehicles were struck by large haul trucks with limited visibility. A review found 23 such fatalities recorded since 2003.

Four miners were killed in the past 12 months while attempting to perform maintenance on an energized conveyor belt or improperly attempted to cross a conveyor belt.

Powered haulage consistently accounts for the largest share of recordable injuries among MSHA's 21 accident classifications. Reducing powered haulage accidents should reduce overall injuries and fatalities in mining.

Take this opportunity to share with the mining community the technology and strategies that work at your operations to prevent powered haulage incidents. MSHA plans to share those ideas with industry.

Please send your comments and ideas to David Wycinsky at Wycinsky.David@DOL.gov.

Mining Safety Board

The Mining Safety Board met on February 1 in Farmington. The board is proposing amending some of the rules for certification and recertification of coal mine officials. A copy of the notice of rulemaking that was posted in the New Mexico Register and is printed on page 8 of this newsletter. The proposed changes may be obtained at the BMS website nmminesafety.com

For a copy of the draft meeting minutes, contact Deb McVey at Debra.mcvey@nmt.edu or 575-835-5460



The next meeting is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on **May 8, 2018 at the Workman's Compensation Bldg., 2410 Center Ave., Albuquerque. A public hearing for comment regarding the proposed rules is planned for that meeting.**

U.S. Coal Fatal Injury March 28, 2018

On Wednesday, March 28, 2018, At approximately 2:00 a.m., a 29-year-old belt foreman was fatally injured while he and a coworker were making a conveyor belt splice. While the victim was on the belt, the conveyor belt started unexpectedly. The victim became entangled in the chains of the belt clamp and received fatal injuries as the conveyor belt moved.

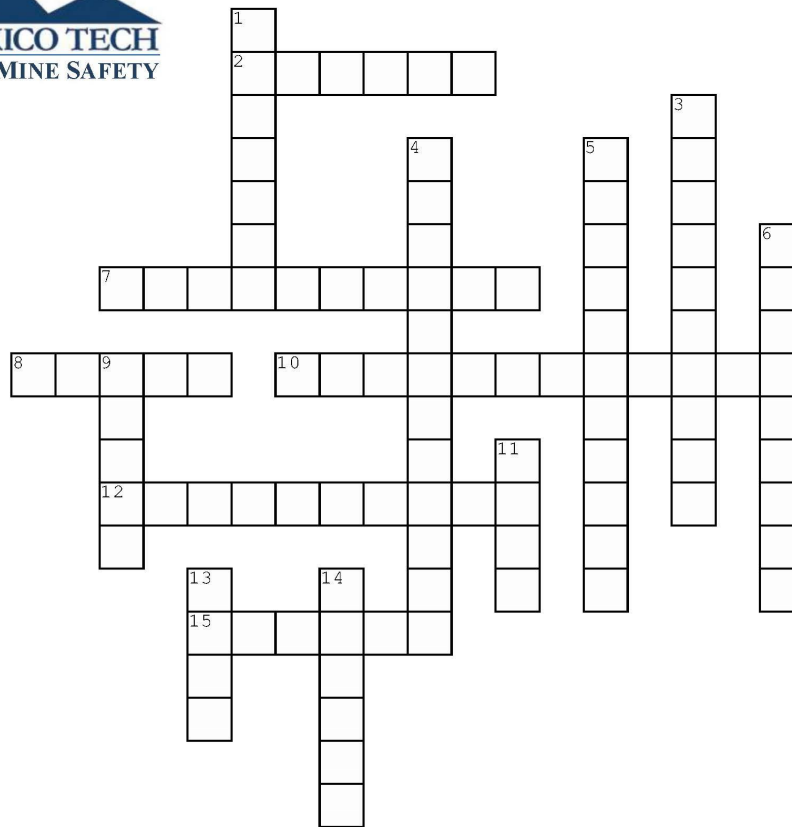
YTD—4/5/2018: 2 M/NM Fatal; 4 Coal Fatal; 6 Total

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Visibility

Complete the crossword below



Created with TheTeachersCorner.net [Crossword Puzzle Generator](#)

Across

2. Don't _____ that you're seen.
Communicate
7. In underground coal, illumination is measured using a _____
8. _____ constructed using reflective paint are more effective at night
10. The process or act of providing artificial light to an area is called _____
12. _____ striping on paved roadways help to delineate traffic lanes
15. Used at night and underground to help see and to be seen

Down

1. To increase visibility, new miners often wear a specially colored _____
3. A cracked or dirty _____ may obstruct the view of an operator
4. _____ blocking the line of sight may create blind spots
5. On underground coal mines equipment, illumination must provide at least 0.06 _____
6. An area where others--especially equipment operators--cannot see you
9. Sunshine and bright lights can cause _____ that may obstruct visibility
11. Torso cover often equipped with reflective material
13. Attached to the top long poles on utility vehicles to improve visibility
14. Artificial lighting (especially) may cast _____ that can affect visibility

*The correct answers will be attached to the archived
March [Newsletter](#) on the BMS website nmminesafety.com*

April 2018 Newsletter

NOTICE OF RULEMAKING

Public Notice: The New Mexico Mining Safety Board will conduct a public hearing in Albuquerque at the Workers' Compensation Building, 2410 Center Ave., Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87106, on May 8, 2018 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (MDT). The purpose of the hearing is to receive public comment on proposed amendments to 19.6.4 NMAC - Certification of Coal Mine Officials ("Part 4").

Purpose: The State Mine Inspector (SMI) has proposed amending the current rules concerning the certification and recertification of coal mine officials. The purpose of the proposed action is to clarify several procedural requirements, incorporate more consistent terminology, and to codify certain procedures used by the SMI in the course of certifying and recertifying coal mine officials. As part of this process, the SMI solicited input from the coal mining community. The response was positive toward the proposed changes in 19.6.4 NMAC with one additional recommendation that would resolve an issue concerning certification of coal mine foremen working on surface areas of underground mines. An additional proposal was drafted to address that issue. The proposed rule clarifies certification and recertification issues, codifies practices adopted by the SMI for administration of the rule, provides for consistent use of terminology, and provides for an agreeable solution to certification of surface foremen at underground coal mines.

Summary of full text: Throughout Part 4, the use of foreman and examiner was used liberally without direct context to coal mine foreman or coal mine examiner. Although the title of Part 4 directs application to coal mines, the proposed amendment would prevent confusion by consistently using these terms throughout the part. This move also made clear that prerequisite experience for testing would be based on coal mine experience and not non-coal mining experience.

Subsection C of 19.6.4.9 NMAC was amended to codify the SMI practice of providing for coal mine official examinations on an appointment basis. Subsection D of the same subpart codifies the SMI practice of requiring certain identification and qualifications of prospective coal mine officials via the application process and clarifies the coal mine examiner experience expectations for underground mine foremen by replacing the phrase "serve as" with "regularly performed the duties of". Finally, the proposed Subsection D outlines requirements for an underground coal mine foreman who may be required to perform foreman duties at surface areas of underground mines. A new classification "general underground coal mine foreman" is incorporated in the proposed rule.

Subsection E of 19.6.4.9 NMAC expanded the SMI's authority to permit a modified experience requirement for persons with "credentials that attest to advanced competency". Otherwise, such accommodation is limited to mining engineering graduates (and by definition, mineral engineering graduates). A table was created that identifies the qualifications and authorizations associated with each classification of coal mine official in a simple format.

In Subsection A of 19.6.4.11 NMAC, a process was outlined for the SMI to use in recertification of coal mine officials who for a variety of reasons may not have maintained annual training requirements on the 5-year certification. Subsection E codifies language that allows the SMI to recertify all coal mine officials whose certification expires during that year to recertify on a single date. This practice has been in place and has proven advantageous to the SMI, operators, and individual coal mine officials. Paragraph 5 of Subsection A was modified to make it clear that discipline for a non-mining issue in another state (such as a speeding ticket) does not disqualify a candidate for certification, recertification, or permit action by the SMI to suspend or revoke certification on such basis.

Authority: Section 69-8-4, NMSA 1978, provides that the Mining Safety Board "shall, after public hearing, adopt rules for the protection of the life and safety of employees and to carry out the intent of the Mining Safety Act." Section 69-14-3, NMSA 1978 authorizes the Mining Safety Board to "enact requirements, including requirements for applications, examinations and qualifications, for certification of any mine personnel required to be qualified by state or federal law." Finally, Section 69-14-4, NMSA 1978 provides that, "The mining safety board shall adopt rules for requirements for recertification."

Access to the Proposed Rulemaking: A complete copy of the proposed rule changes with line-out of extracted text and underlined inserted text may be read or downloaded from the Bureau of Mine Safety (BMS) website at bmi.state.nm.us. A copy may be obtained by contacting Debora McVey at the Bureau of Mine Safety at 575-835-5460 or Debora.mcvvey@nmt.edu.

Public Comment: Interested parties may comment on the proposed rulemaking at a public hearing to be held at the regular mining safety board meeting beginning at 1:00 p.m. on May 8, 2018 at the NM Workers' Compensation building, 2410 Center Ave., Albuquerque, New Mexico. Written comments will also be received by the Bureau of Mine Safety until Monday, May 7, 2018 by U.S. Mail or email.

MSB Rulemaking Comments
New Mexico Bureau of Mine Safety
New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
801 Leroy Place
Socorro, NM 87801
Debora.mcvvey@nmt.edu

Accommodations: Individuals with disabilities who require the above information in an alternative format or who need any form of auxiliary aid to attend or participate in the public hearing are asked to contact Debora McVey or Randy Logsdon at 575-835-5460 as soon as possible before the public hearing. The Bureau of Mine Safety will make a reasonable effort to provide necessary accommodations.

Technical Information: These proposed amendments did not require technical information.

MSHA SAFETY ALERT

SPLICING CONVEYOR BELTS

Since January 26, 2017, there have been four miners fatally injured when performing work around conveyor belts in underground coal mines. Two fatalities involved miners crossing the belt and the third fatal occurred when a miner contacted a moving drive roller for the section belt. Most recently, a miner, part of the mine's maintenance crew, was preparing to make a belt splice when the belt started up, resulting in fatal injuries. Below are some best practices to follow when splicing a conveyor belt.



BEST PRACTICES

- Communicate to others in advance that you are planning to de-energize electrical power before splicing a conveyor belt.
- De-energize electrical power and lock and tag the visual disconnect before beginning a belt splice. Carry and use your own lock and tag device.
- Do NOT use the start and stop controls (belt switches). This switch does not de-energize the power.
- Disconnecting devices shall be locked out and suitably tagged by the person performing the work; lock and tags shall only be removed by the person who installed them once the work is completed.
- Block the belt to secure components against motion.
- After the splice has been completed and before removing your lock and tag, ensure everyone is clear of the conveyor belt and communicate to others that you will be restarting the belt.
- Establish policies and procedures for conducting specific task training on belt conveyors such as replacing rollers and splicing belts. Include these policies and procedures in your Part 48 refresher training. All employees must be trained on these policies and procedures.



www.msha.gov
askmsa@dol.gov
Twitter: @MSHA_DOL

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New Mexico Mine Health & Safety Conference

May 9-11, 2018



*Be Safe for Life
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- Mine Emergencies
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- Compliance Issues
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- & Much More



John Drebinger
Keynotes
Spencer Beach



Patricia W. Silvey
Deputy Assistant Secretary
MSHA Operations



New Mexico Mine Safety Group Block

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