

**DIVISION OF MINES GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATION OF REGULATORY STANDARDS
MANUAL**

COAL MINE SAFETY ACT	CHAPTER 14.2
ARTICLE 8	MINE INSPECTIONS
Issue Date: 4/10/00 Revised Date:	Page 1 of 1

Section 45.1-161.84. A.

**Advance Notice of Inspections;
Confidentiality of Trade Secrets**

Giving advanced notice compromises the integrity of an inspection. Advanced notification may result in conditions, acts, practices, and equipment at the mine being altered to not reflect the actual working conditions during normal every day activities.

The inspector must make an effort to ensure that advance notice of any mine inspection is not given to the operator. Discretion must be taken when conducting and coordinating an inspection to avoid giving indication to the operator, his agent or anyone else of when and where inspection activities will be performed to prevent compromising the integrity of the inspection process.

It is important for the inspector to obtain shift schedules, weekly examinations, personnel times, and any other pertinent information related to mine activities in order to coordinate inspection activities with the mine's schedule. Pre-arrangements of specific activities should not be scheduled. The inspector should create his schedule of activities mindful of the need to avoid advanced notice.

The inspector should make "general requests" when coordinating transportation into the mine. Specific locations can be further communicated once underground. Should it become necessary to "break off" an inspection for a period of time due to other commitments, it is not considered advanced notice by the inspector to advise the operator or agent that he will not be returning the next day.