

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

COAL MINE SAFETY ACT	CHAPTER 14.4
ARTICLE 12	AUGER, HIGHWALL AND THIN SEAM MINING
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Section 45.1-161.288. & 290.

**Inspection of Electric Equipment and
Wiring; Checking and Testing Methane
Monitors**

Section 45.1-161.288 addresses the requirements for inspection, maintenance, functional testing, and calibration of methane monitors for equipment operated from the surface. The MSA does not require monitors on surface equipment. However, if the equipment is provided with methane monitors, the operator is required to maintain, test, and calibrate the monitors. Section 45.1-161.290 requires tests for methane and oxygen deficiency with an approved detecting device whenever an auger hole penetrates an abandoned or mined out area of an underground mine. Machine mounted methane monitors do not satisfy this requirement for testing and examination.