

DIVISION OF MINES GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATION OF REGULATORY STANDARDS MANUAL	
COAL MINE SAFETY ACT	CHAPTER 14.3
ARTICLE 6	TRANSPORTATION
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Section 45.1-161.141. E.

Self-Propelled Equipment

Effective means used during track haulage to ensure safe control

Where track haulage is employed, the mine inspector must determine that safe control is maintained when grades present potential hazards. In making this determination the inspector should consider:

- Grades/distances of haulage routes in the mine.
- Type and capacities of equipment being utilized for track haulage.
- Loads being hauled.
- Track condition and installation.
- Mine history of haulage accidents and incidents.

The MSA recognizes that different methods may be used for safely controlling track haulage. Examples of effective controls include:

1. A locomotive coupled to the load on each end of the trip.
2. A drag provided where the potential exists for a load accidentally uncoupled to travel in the opposite direction. Other effective means in this situation may be the type of coupling with a combination of safety chains or ropes rated for the load capacity of the trip.
3. A skid or slide where the potential exists for an uncontrolled load traveling in the same direction. These may be provided on the locomotive and/or the trip.

The inspector must evaluate each mine condition on a case by case basis in determining what requirements are necessary to ensure maintaining safe control of trips at all times. The inspector should consider that block signals are used to control traffic and not for safe control of track haulage.

The inspector should also consider that derails and stop blocks are used to protect miners from runaway equipment, but are not to be considered as a safe control for track haulage equipment.

